

# Public Libraries

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## On a Certain Reticence or Inarticulateness among Librarians \*

Carl B. Roden, librarian, Chicago public library

By inarticulateness or reticence—I do not yet know which of these two, not convertible, terms is most applicable—I am not referring to any inability of ours to express in writing or speech such thoughts as we permit ourselves to harbor or incubate. We can be glib and voluble enough in talking to and at one another in our professional conferences and occasional assemblies where the major preoccupation is with the methods and practices of our professional routine. We have even developed a 'considerable body of professional or trade jargon to facilitate and amplify such intercommunication. What I have in mind (and what, I am afraid, I shall prove to be much more inarticulate than reticent in trying to exhibit) is our singular inability, considering the mission and implications of American librarianship, and the stir it once made in the world as a new and distinctively American contribution towards popular education, to achieve that complete acceptance and recognition on the part of our great potential constituencies which alone could justify us in our claims to the functions of a profession, and which, surely, we are still far, far from having achieved.

Let us examine, for a moment, the present status of librarianship as a profession. We are, most of us, members (humble members) of the administrative machinery of a municipality, supported by taxation and vaguely ac-

cepted by the community as representing something essential to its well-being. Our functions are assumed to be educational. There is little exact knowledge among the citizens or city officials as to what we really do or accomplish, and less interest. We are taken for granted. We must be doing some good, for, apparently, we are doing no harm. And when we annually hurl at their heads our impressive if bewildering statistics, showing in thousands or millions, according to the population we serve, the number of books taken out, the numbers on our shelves, and less vociferously, the numbers that never come back, we have done all we can or need to do to maintain the status quo on an even keel. This probably classifies as a mixed metaphor, though I do not see why it should, since "Status Quo", on the whole and from several points of view, seems to be a very good name for something in which stability is a desirable quality, like, say a ship. Much better, for instance, than the Dolly B. or Molly J., or Emperor or Empress of This or That, or (at least in the American merchant marine) anything ending in "-ic".

Having thus maintained the status quo on an even keel by reassuring our public of our continuing efficiency as revealed in constantly mounting numbers, in volume of volumes, so to speak, we resume our well-charted way, returning to port periodically with other cargoes of statistics, each invariably larger than the previous one. There is never very much dis-

\*Read at the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Illinois library association, Peoria, September 26, 1923.

position to question the value of these cargoes, save for an occasional quibble as to whether they are not weighted with too much joy and contain too little of the sterner stuff of life. The citizen who would venture to question, who would even think of questioning, the validity of the public library's claim to public support as an agency of great benefit and importance to the community is quite as non-existent as the citizen who could give any but the haziest account of just what benefits the maintenance of that institution entails upon him or his. In a very general way it is conceded that reading is a good thing for children going to school or women who have the leisure for such gentle pastimes. If the library building happens to be architecturally creditable, it comes in for a small share of the common stock of civic pride. Even those who are set apart to serve on Boards of Directors of our public libraries presumably and, for the most part, properly, because of a special fitness or predilection for such duties, will, if pressed, confess to a very imperfect notion of the functions and performances of the institution they are called to govern, and will seek to dissemble their confusion in generous and sincerely felt assurances of their confidence in the integrity, devotion and ability of the librarian and staff, and complete willingness to leave all such matters to them. If it were not so, should we, I ask you, feel called upon—as we do feel most earnestly called upon—to include in our program for this meeting so amazing and naive a question as: How to make Board meetings interesting? Can you imagine the American or the Illinois Bankers' Association, for example, occupying itself with such a topic?

Now, this general attitude of the public towards its libraries, which is by no means one of indifference but is composite of entirely genuine tho largely abstract admiration, and which I trust I may not be accused of having overdrawn, is either very flattering and thus very pleasing to us, or, on the other hand,

very humiliating and thus provocative and challenging. If we are—I should say if we were—wholly satisfied and convinced that the American public library as at present administered was really fulfilling to the utmost the ideal that may legitimately be regarded as its goal; if we were sure that present methods of purveying books to possible readers were the best possible methods, and that little lay ahead of us except to continue along the way we are now going, we might be content to accept the spontaneous approbation of our constituencies and so continue to bring in our annual cargoes of statistics and to be taken for granted. If, on the other hand, we were (and I think we are) conscious of many shortcomings and of a dynamic desire to do more and to do it better, of that sort of divine discontent that, translated into action, spells progress, and of the conviction that public libraries as we know them, or, rather, the contents of them as we ought to know them, are capable of a vastly higher service than any they have yet rendered, then, I submit, it is time to give thought to the next step in librarianship, if there is to be one, and I think there is. Hitherto we have, to borrow chemical terminology, suffered ourselves to be analyzed quantitatively for "volume"; there is still to come a qualitative test, for "specific gravity." Thus far libraries have never yet succeeded (this time employing the publicity man's well-known patter) in "selling themselves" to the public. They have only allowed themselves to be bought and paid for. Now, it so happens that no single member of that great and efficient host that sells many and diverse things to the public was ever accused of being either inarticulate or reticent. Can it be that we are afflicted with one or both of these fatal handicaps?

I have already ventured the observation that we are glib and voluble enough in all matters pertaining to the theory and practice of our occupation. Fifty years of convention proceedings testify to that, and a glance at our

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programs today reveals that we are still eager to learn from the experiences of one another in disposing of the problems involved in the day's work. Yet we have not the same reasons for remaining engrossed in the details of our professional apparatus that our predecessors had. Thanks to their labors we are the legatees of a well-nigh perfected body of doctrine and practice, which we have but to follow to achieve a satisfactory measure of mechanical efficiency. The principles of classification, so far as they concern most of us, were established when Melvil Dewey evolved the Decimal System. The rules for cataloging have long since been so far stabilized that little remains even for catalogers to talk about, and the craft is in danger of being embedded like the well known fly in a rigid translucence that promotes both permanence and finality. So in other departments, our work, save for occasional innovations born of personal ingenuity, has been standardized to a degree that should leave little room for further fruitful discussion, and much for the flight of our thoughts into fresh fields and pastures new. The outward and visible form of our calling is clear and sharply defined. There remains the inward and spiritual grace which we who profess and call ourselves librarians know and feel, but which, in this generation, we seem to have found no adequate means for materializing to the end that it may be communicated to, and perceived by, those for whom we labor. Our few major prophets who had the gift of interpreting their visions are all of a past and passing generation. Those still among us appear weary and discouraged, and no one arises to take their place.

We are engaged in the administration, or application or dissemination, of books on a community scale,—on the theory, I suppose, that the common acceptance of books, the habit of associating with books and the benefits to be derived from the use of books are as important in the life of the citizen, and therefore as legiti-

mately objects of community distribution, as breathing fresh air, resting on shady lawns, replenishing the physical powers in games, feeding the spirit with the beauties of nature and art, or acquiring the rudiments of an education. All of these things are administered on a community scale. But of all the commodities, apparatus, facilities, employed in these laudable and popular enterprises, surely none is more grotesquely ill-adapted to community distribution than a book. Its very physical composition renders it an object of repugnance and a useless ruin after it has passed from hand to hand for but a short time. It is easy to conceive of a common park, playground, festival, art gallery or school, whose activities and pleasures are capable of being shared and enjoyed by many at once. It is even possible to imagine a common bath towel for it implies a concomitant community laundry. But is there such a thing as a common book; or if you insist upon a closer analogy, is there really such a thing as a common library? Is it really possible to administer books to a community on a quantitative or horizontal basis and get anything but quantitative results—bring in the kind of cargoes we annually lay at the feet of our admiring constituencies? The motto of the American Library Association, to which we all own allegiance, proclaims in words that click like an adding machine and are quite as uninspiring, that it is our mission to supply:

The best books to the largest number at the least cost

If that is really the creed of American librarianship then, I submit, it is small wonder that we have achieved no more than the quantitative and horizontal results implied in those three shop-keeping superlatives, and that we stand today in the placid esteem of our communities somewhere between the tulip beds and monkey cages of the parks and the compulsory processes of the public schools.

I am reminded of the words of one

of my favorite essayists, Dean Inge of St. Paul's cathedral, London, who describes Utilitarianism as "an attempt to apply quantitative standards of measurement to spiritual goods—an attempt to weigh the imponderable."

Books are spiritual goods; they are imponderables. To attempt to apply quantitative standards to their distribution or to the measurement of their power is as futile as the Dean declares these methods to be in the realm of Philosophy. There is no such thing as a common book, though there may be many readers common to one book. There is no more intimate and far-reaching relation in human life than that which is established when the right book and the right reader are brought together. But there is, also, no greater waste, measuring results against effort, than is involved in that method of community book distribution, wide in extent, huge in quantity and spectacular in method tho it be, which leaves to chance or to the reader's own initiative the consummation of that union. It is the mission of the librarian, not merely to supply even the best books to the greatest number, nor yet "at the least cost," but to bring together the right book and the right reader—at any cost! That, in my opinion, will be the next step in library administration, if there is to be one. Thus, in the end, and thus alone, will be manifested that inward and spiritual grace which is the soul of librarianship.

Is all this mere rhetoric or is there a modicum of practical thought beneath these turgid periods? I should not have presumed upon your patience if I had not hoped to be able to leave at least the germ of a small idea behind. It is my belief that the time is ripe for a new development in library service. I think it will be in the direction of placing greater emphasis upon service to the individual, perhaps at the expense of the multitude, but at any rate with somewhat slighter stress upon the mere weight of numbers in determining our factor of usefulness. I recognize, of course, the obvious

criticism to such ambitious schemes. We are doing all we can with the small revenues allotted to us, and there is much more of the same sort waiting to be done. Until larger means are placed at our disposal we cannot hope to undertake new forms of work. Exactly! Let me now complete the vicious circle by adding that while we continue doing the sort of thing we are doing now, no matter how we may swell its quantity, we need not expect to receive support in greater measure than to enable us to keep up with a normal increase. For our public is quite content with our present gentle ministrations, and will cheerfully keep on manifesting its kind regard in the form of one cent for the public library and three dollars for the public schools so long as we are unable to show that the public library is indeed worth more as an instrument for public education than one three-hundredth of the worth of the schools. There is no other single agency set up by the people for its own benefit that holds within itself greater possibilities for the cultural future of the race than the public library. None other commands a wider prospect, a fairer field, a vaster objective. And none other has been so shy and reticent in entering and possessing its domain. It transcends in scope and freedom all of the schools, from the lowest to the highest. It is the one tax-supported institution that seems almost preordained to meet the rising call for leadership in adult education. It knows neither the limitations of curriculum, discipline or age limit, nor the inhibitions of doctrine, creed or conformity, and its place among modern forces for progress is abreast of both church and school, and, perhaps, because of its freedom, a little ahead of both. These others gladly avail themselves of its services and it serves both, eagerly and effectively. Yet in its own particular field lies a huge task but half begun which would be half done if only the library could develop the faculty of convincing its constituencies of the validity of its as-



pirations and of its capacity to realize them.

Mr Allan B. Pond, an eminent Chicago architect, speaking at one of the conferences organized to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Public library of that city last January, explained the absence of good architecture in new communities by saying that the pioneers, beset by the direst and most immediate necessities, could spare no time for such considerations. "Art begins," said Mr Pond, "only when there is leisure and a margin of resources." Samuel Butler expressed a similar thought by saying: "Only when humanity began to live beyond its income did it begin to progress." Culture, too, synonymous with both art and progress, waits upon leisure and a margin of resources for development, and he who would acquire it must reach out and aspire.

Now, if there is anything in this teeming, roaring time in which we live and move that the average American citizen possesses in abundance it is leisure. That may seem a startling statement, but it is none the less true; quite as true as it is that he does not know that he has it, and does not know what to do with it. But there undoubtedly is accruing to each of us in our lives as we live them today a wide margin, a great unearned increment of time over and above that which is consumed in our necessary pursuits, which is our surplus, available for investment in anything that we may choose or desire for our bodily, mental or spiritual satisfaction. Speed is the spirit of the age. Speed that conquers space and clips the wings of time. It was Macaulay, I think, who said that the mechanical inventions of the highest benefit to mankind were those that annihilated distance. He too was thinking of the margin of time to be saved for other things by such inventions, the surplus of leisure that remained when the journey was done. But I recall a phrase invented by Percy Mackaye in one of his books, "the redemption of leisure," which seems to me pregnant with significance in our time. The Amer-

ican is squandering his leisure, wasting his spiritual substance in riotous living, riding the demon of speed even in his hours of mis-called ease in a feverish passion to kill time. He is, indeed, living beyond his income in Butler's meaning; not on the road to progress, but on that towards bankruptcy—the bankruptcy of leisure.

In the redemption that must come the public library must inevitably bear a large part—a larger part than it has ever yet permitted itself to take in the life of the average citizen. Here lies its great opportunity; for culture is a pursuit of leisure, an investment of the unearned increment, and it is as an instrument of culture that the library must enter in. It is as the conscious and convinced minister of the Gospel of Books that it must stand forth and issue its challenge to the times; speaking the language of books, asserting the power of books, demanding the right of books, to share in the life of every soul, to its enrichment and salvation. Books must be the burden of our message. For fifty years we have talked libraries and have been listened to with mild and indulgent interest. Now let us talk books awhile, and we shall be heard.

We of the large cities envy you of the smaller places your opportunities for personal contacts. We may seem to boast of our large numbers; of the multitudes that swarm through our doors and the millions in which we reckon the score of our books. Be not deceived. The Gospel of Books is not a tale of crowds. It must be passed by word of mouth, from mind to mind, from the heart full of conviction to the heart empty with hunger. The language of books is an intimate language, and culture thrives most in the quiet lanes and silent corners. The love of books is a consuming passion that grows by what it feeds on. In the freemasonry of a common quest it binds together the humble and the exalted, the wise and the simple, and asks no other sign for admittance into the tabernacle than the ability to speak in its own tongue. Wherever two or three of the brotherhood foregather

there the spirit that dwells in books descends to enfold them. Where books are housed there also must abide the love of books and be suffered to work its will. It is not enough to fling wide the gate and bid all to enter who pass by. We too, the guardians of the temple, must speak the language of the initiate and be prepared to discover and welcome alike the faltering postulant and the serene master of the craft.

This gift of tongues is not acquired by rote. It rises unbidden to voice the promptings of the heart filled with inspiration. No art is needed to embellish it when its source is in the deep well of enthusiasm and devotion to a cause such as ours and a prospect such as spreads before our gaze. It is the voice of conviction that presses to proclaim its message. It is the inward and spiritual grace made articulate.

### The Librarian's Leisure Hour Reading

Frank H. Chase, reference librarian, Public library, Boston, Mass.

The librarian of popular imagination is an omnivorous reader, but the actual American library worker is often so busy with routine duties that he seems to have no time at all for reading. As a matter of fact, we all do read, more or less; and it is our disgrace, as custodians of books, if we do not read to good advantage. How shall we read, and why, and when? What is the importance of our leisure reading?

These questions may perhaps best be answered by further questions: What sort of mind do we want? Shall we have big minds or little minds, cheap minds or fine ones? We librarians, surrounded by books as we are, may have whatever sort of mind we like; it is merely a matter of choice and will power. What we do with our leisure is usually the decisive factor in making us the men and women that we are.

Every one of us reads something, although few of us know just how much. I was called a few days ago on the telephone by a friend who wanted my opinion as to the number of books read by the average American in the course of a year. My first response was, "He could easily read fifty, if he cared to," but in a minute we were seriously discussing whether the average should be placed at three books a year or two. The man of one book has always been notoriously a man to reckon with, and two books, well chosen and properly digested, are probably better than two hundreds books taken

at random and gulped down quickly because their thinness makes it easy.

What is leisure? It is time—it may be seconds, it may be weeks—when the mind is free to follow its own inclination. Everyone has more of it than he realizes; we think we have none because it comes in short stretches. The question for each of us is, shall we use our leisure or waste it? Shall the result be growth, or decay, or stagnation? Our leisure must of course be utilized for a number of purposes: exercises, social life, sheer amusement, and reading, and even reading will mean different things to different temperaments. Many of us read for relaxation, which is good if it does not relax our grip. Most of us need some light reading, but I plead for just one thing: choose, don't drift. Among the multitude of novels and magazines which crowd the book-stalls, it is not necessary to take the false or the ephemeral; strange to say, a good book is sometimes just as interesting as a poor one, and it leaves a deposit of real value.

Much of our reading is bound to be of some use to us, whether we intend it or not. Our curiosity is constantly aroused, and we read for information. We get interested in a good novel, and incidentally learn something about human nature. The newspapers and magazines keep us in touch with current events and help to make us intelligent when we are suddenly asked a ques-

tion about the Greek refugees, or the affairs of the Shipping board, or the meaning of Fascism. The essential thing, however, is that we shall not read without thinking, for it is through thinking alone that we gain the mental growth which our leisure reading ought to give us. "Reading maketh a full man" said Francis Bacon, but the mind is more than a tank; it is an organism, which can be trained for a larger life. A boyhood friend of mine, who had an ambition to be tall, confided to me that before rising in the morning, he used to seize the headboard of his bed and pull with all his might. That boy grew to be six feet four. Incidentally, his father and mother were both tall, but the moral is none the less obvious.

The point is that we ought never to forget that leisure means time for growing. We don't need to be solemn about it, or priggish, or superior; indeed, the healthiest growth goes to the tune of a laugh. Don't be afraid of being amused, but choose your amusement.

Select your reading. Try the thing which appeals to the finer side of your mind; you may like it. The *Saturday Evening Post* has built great its circulation on an appeal to the average mind, which, we are told by experts, is the mind of the 12-year-old. The head-lines of most newspapers lay their main emphasis on the lower aspects of life. If we librarians are to be fit guides to books and periodical literature we shall not confine ourselves to the average or the lower.

A classic has been defined as a book which you think somebody else ought to read. I am not going to prescribe a list of classics. We all know the familiar titles, or can get hold of them, easily enough, but one thing I beg you, if you must read only scraps of the great books—and that is all that many of us will have time for—choose your own scraps. A "five-foot shelf" is a good thing, but bits cut from books are not books. We all have daily access to the books themselves. Take

one and dip into it; turn the pages and get the run of it; and it is yours. You may not have read the finest passages, but you have got the "feel" of it; it is your friend, and you can go back to it with some notion of what you will find. All real reading must be personal; if it does not take hold, it is of no real value to us as individuals; and no one can safely select another's reading.

Some of us read at times for excitement, but in these days, I think more of us are inclined to read for serenity. This is, I believe, the true explanation of what seems like an almost feverish interest in things remote—in Mt. Everest, in primitive man, in Tut-Ankh-Amen. These far-away subjects enable us to escape, for the moment, from the pressure and tension of the things about us, from the problems, large and small, with which our lives and the newspapers are crowded, to a country where the problems, if there were any, are all settled, to a quiet place where we can think undisturbed of the beauty of untrodden snows, or the simplicity of a life with no yesterday and no tomorrow.

In our libraries, we are surrounded by books full of suggestion and stimulus, waiting for us to find and use them. It took Balboa a long time to reach the height from which he saw the Pacific but when he had gained it, the recognition was instantaneous. Keats did not know what Homer was like, but when he first looked into Chapman's book, he knew that he had arrived. Dip into the books which you handle; the leisure may last only a moment, but it may be sufficient to establish contact with a source of richer life. Take hold on the best which it is possible for you to find interesting. Take as much of it as you can assimilate, and then stop. The mind, like the muscles, expands by use. Each honest effort means the power to apprehend something a little larger, a little finer, than was possible before. The riches which surround us are inexhaustible. If one book bores you,

try another. You have no obligation to like any particular book, but the food which your mind needs is there. When you find it, don't be afraid to read slowly; don't be afraid to stop at the end of a page, or a paragraph. Don't say that you have no leisure for reading, if you have five minutes. He who has learned this lesson, will make his leisure reading count.

One more thing is worth bearing in mind: you will never have time to read all the good books; so don't wait. The book for you to get acquainted with is the book in your hand. Sample it as you go; if you like it, you can come back to it; if you don't, at least you have got an impression of it. The great book that we are going to read in our leisure, we often never get to; the book that we taste in the five minutes snatched from some other duty sometimes proves to be the one of all others which has a message for us. Your leisure is the time that you have,

not the time that you expect to have; take it as it passes, if you want to be sure of it.

Another word, and I am done. If I have seemed to lay too much stress on the serious aspects of reading, it is because my observation has led me to believe that the present age tends to forget them. I am not oblivious to the fact that the average reader—even the average librarian—will prefer to take a lighter diet in his leisure hours than I have indicated. If you have the hours, and like to read, there are plenty of good stories, more than a plenty of worth-while magazines, to keep you occupied. But don't forget that there is also room in your leisure, no matter how limited it be, for something of the reading that expands the mind and elevates the soul. Nuggets lie all about us; shall we not be willing to take—say, one a week? We don't know, until we try it, how easily we may become rich—and with what a thrill!

### **The Carnegie Corporation Report on Library Training**

Humility and a spirit of inquiry should dominate every investigation. The subject matter of research, whatever it may be, does not take kindly to other methods. Unfortunately we have too often researches that begin with assertions or assumptions with regard to much mooted questions, and that are based largely upon this foundation. The writer had occasion recently to call attention to the fact that discussions of standardization usually proceed on the assumption that standardization in itself is a good thing. The question of instruction by correspondence has also been handled in this way. I have looked up many references on the subject but only in one case have I found a discussion of the general advisability of the method with a discrimination between subjects that can be taught by it and those that cannot.

And now we have a report on training for library service which starts

out in the same way. It is a pity; for no one doubts Dr Williamson's ability, disinterestedness and general competence. And he has done libraries and library schools a service by writing this report. He has put into it hard work and careful thought. In stressing the necessity for better library training, which we all admit, and the crying need of our professional schools for better equipment, which is evident both to their faculties and their students, he is doing no more and no less than we should have expected of him. All the more unfortunate is it that he should have assumed at the outset Whistler's attitude when he said, "My dear fellow, I am not arguing, I am telling you."

The report is based to a large extent on the thesis that there are two definite kinds of library work—professional and clerical—which may be clearly discriminated and taught to different persons by different methods. This is treated as an axiom and both libraries

and library schools are continually scored for not recognizing it as such.

That there are routine elements in library work goes, of course, without saying. They are present in that of practically every profession or occupation and there have been everywhere two ways of looking at them from the training standpoint. One is that routine in itself is in some way of low grade, that it should be handled by low grade people and that those who are responsible for the more advanced phases of the work should be kept apart from these routine assistants and trained for their duties by a different method. The other view is that routine is of all kinds, some high and some low grade, that it is so inextricably intertwined with the substance of the work that segregation is impossible and that the work must be taught as a whole. Both these extreme views may be plausibly defended. Probably some modification or combination of them will ultimately prevail. Their application to library training is only a phase of their larger aspect. What we should have is a recognition of the fact that both exist and that both have intelligent defenders, with a dispassionate statement of the arguments for each and then, if necessary, the writer's conclusions, with his reasons for them.

The fact that this method is not followed in the report under consideration is greatly to be deplored, for it contains, as has been said, much with which everyone will agree and many wholesome and sane suggestions for betterment. The dependence of many of its conclusions on a one-sided view

prejudices the reader against it at the outset and deprives it as a whole of much of the force that it would otherwise carry. The writer's adoption of the view that professional librarianship is a thing apart from every-day contact with library routine may be responsible also for his conclusion that a public library should not conduct a library school, his adhesion to the text-book, and his belief that the shortcomings of the schools are partly at any rate the result of lack of funds. All these questions admit of argument. It is certainly illogical for a public library to conduct a school, as illogical as it is for it to hold an exhibition of local products, or allow the election board to use a branch as a polling place. These things are the result of necessity, not logic. If the American public library had not developed illogically, it would still be where it was in 1870. It is somewhat disconcerting to realize that these ideas and some others that one meets throughout the report are throw-backs—a reversion to the old as opposed to the modern and socialized view of the library.

Despite what has been said above, every librarian and every library well-wisher must be glad that this report has been written, even though he might wish that it were written otherwise. It has aroused and will arouse much discussion. It is an important step toward the improvement of our library training. I wish it were also possible to say that it is not a step towards the systematization of that training. We are too much systematized already.

ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK  
St. Louis public library



### The Same Books

Editor, PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

It may be of general interest that the book, *What shall we do now?* by Dorothy Canfield, published by Stokes, c.1907 and 1922, "new and revised edition", is the same book which was published by Grant Richards in London in 1901, with the same title but under the authorship of E. V. and E. Lucas.

The Stokes edition, of which Dorothy Canfield appears as the author, is almost the same, line for line, as the Richards edition of which the Lucases were authors except that the Stokes edition has a chapter entitled *Play-houses of other lands* and has omitted a chapter, *Sunday games*. Evidently in 1922, children may play the same games on Sunday as they do on week days. There are, of course, some additions to the text throughout the book. The Stokes edition contains 419 pages as compared to 318 pages in the Grant Richards' edition.

HAROLD L. WHEELER

Muskegon, Mich. Librarian

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The Grant Richards book originally published in London, 1901, was the basis for our publication, *What shall we do now?* by Dorothy Canfield and others. The book as originally published by Grant Richards and imported by us was well received and was approved by librarians with the qualification, however, that it was rather too British in style and content. Some years later we could not obtain further supplies from London, since the British publisher let the book go out of print. We therefore made arrangements to publish the book over here in a revised form especially prepared for American readers. The arrangement as made required that since we intended to adapt the book for American children we should not use the names of the English authors, E. V. Lucas and E. Lucas, and their names were accordingly omitted. We then asked Miss Dorothy Canfield to revise the book, which she did. This revision consisted of a partial rewriting of

many pages to make them more valuable to American readers, in a substitution of American terms for British, and in the addition of material about other games and pastimes. A comparison of the two volumes has shown that there is a substantial difference. In our edition, there are two entire chapters not included in the English edition; there are about 35 additional games; and the chapter on Reading has been thoroughly revised and Americanized. Moreover, we omitted many of the English illustrations and had new illustrations made especially for American readers. Our latest edition, issued in 1922, contains a still further new chapter, *Holiday games*.

At no time have we endeavored to conceal the connection between our present book and the original version. When we issued the revised edition in 1907 we made it perfectly clear in our descriptive notes that this was a book revised from a former version. When again in 1922, we added still more to the book and made other revisions we again made it clear that it was not an original work issued now for the first time.

I trust this will answer the points raised in Mr Wheeler's letter.

Yours very truly,  
WILLIAM MORROW, Secretary  
Frederick A. Stokes Company

### Magazines Wanted

The following magazines are needed to complete unbound files in the American library in Paris. Their receipt will be greatly appreciated.

*Atlantic Monthly*: 1908, July.

*Cornhill*: 1919, January-date.

*Current History Magazine*: 1919, Jan.-July; Sept., Dec.; 1920, Jan.-Sept.; 1921, Feb., Oct.; 1922, June, Sept.

*Edinburgh Review*: 1919, May-date.

*Fortnightly Review*: 1920, March; 1922, May, Aug., Sept.

*Literary Digest*: 1918, Jan., Feb., Mar., Apr., May.

*Nineteenth Century*: 1920, Jan.

*Scribner*: 1920, Jan., Apr., May, June, July; 1922, July, Oct.

*Yale Review*: 1919, Jan., Apr., July.

W. D. J.

Monthly—Except August  
and September

## Public Libraries

M. E. Ahern, Editor

216 W. Monroe Street  
Chicago, Illinois

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Contributions for current numbers of PUBLIC LIBRARIES should be in hand by the fifteenth of the month previous to the appearance of the magazine. Advertisements for which proof is not required can be accepted as late as the twenty-second of the previous month.

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### A. L. A. Meeting Place for 1924

Where shall the A. L. A. meeting be?  
Way down East by the deep blue sea!

SCARCELY yet recovered from the effects of city meetings of the A. L. A. in recent years, and now plans are being discussed for another such meeting either in Providence R. I., or in Montreal, Canada, both charming cities beyond question! But a meeting of two thousand librarians bent on seeing those for whom they pine, discussing common problems, listening to sage addresses, resting from the weariness of the year's work, subject to the generous hospitality of those desirous of being hosts, hardly brings to mind a high state of comfort or satisfaction when located in a city of the far Northeast.

What binding tradition prevents the authorities of the A. L. A. from going to a central seaside resort on the Atlantic coast; engaging comfortable quarters in hotels and meeting places, and having a conference of the members of the A. L. A. independent of local entertainment, thereby assuring hours of restfulness between sessions and opportunities for in-

terchange of ideas at piazza conferences, many times more enlightening and satisfactory than addresses from the platform?

Those charged with the responsibility of finding a meeting place are justified, perhaps, in following precedent—and precedent is scarcely ever broken except by actual intent. It, therefore, remains for those in the membership who shrink from a city meeting (what visions of discomfort arise at the very mention of a city meeting!) to convey to the proper authorities their ideas in this matter rather than repine, not to say complain, when without any knowledge of what protests may be unspoken, the arrangements are made and cannot be unmade, for another city meeting.

Montreal is a charming place for sight-seeing and much progress in library service has, perhaps, been made there since the A. L. A. visit of several years ago. Another visit to the Canadian contingent is quite fitting if the Canadian contingent wishes it but in the background stands the spectre of the discomforts of a city meeting, uttering strong protest.

When answer is made to the question "Why go to Providence?" it is "Because Providence wants the meeting"—and then, one thinks of what Providence means in the membership and a moment of happy anticipation endures, until driven away by the thought of a *city meeting*

*in hot weather*, and, despite the first feeling, one wishes for a meeting place with nothing but the roar of the sea and the sound of the winds as accompaniment to the strenuous hours that an honest attendance at an A. L. A. meeting fore-shadows.

### Programs for Library Meetings

**H**ARDLY a library program is offered where one or perhaps several persons are not attracted by subjects included in the program. The program is or is not interesting, according to the extent to which it offers to the listener discussion of the matters in which he himself is personally interested, and yet, time and again speakers accepting places on programs, promising to discuss a certain subject or some phase of it, talk on an entirely different topic or even fail to put in an appearance at all.

At a recent meeting, the subject of Sunday closing of libraries was on the program. At least two persons came to the meeting because it was an important question in their environment at the time, only to be met with the omission of the discussion altogether.

Another regrettable phase is the tendency of speakers to tell personal experiences "in our library" rather

than discuss the subjects assigned. Time and again one reads on a program the name of a subject to be treated by a speaker only to find that the speaker gets up and talks about something entirely different and in no wise related to the subject, seemingly perfectly oblivious that what he has said is beside the question in point.

Perhaps there is no way to avoid a situation of this kind but there should be, and it would seem sometimes as if a little more care on the part of those responsible for choosing speakers and for making programs, as well as on the part of those accepting places on the program, might obviate consequences which go far toward affecting results which come from many conventions. Speakers should be chosen because they have something to tell, not because they represent a locality or are friends of the powers that act or for any side reason whatever.

### Days, Weeks and—Life

**I**N NOVEMBER, three specially interesting periods as relating to the use of books have been noted.

The first one, of course, is Children's Book Week, the second, Education Week and the third, Religious Week. There is a line of connection and interest that runs thru all three periods

and much of what may be done to stimulate interest in each of them relates to all three. For instance, Children's Book Week is not to be considered a time for frolic and excitement for the week's sake but rather as a time in which inventory of progress, mental conditions and attitude of ju-

veniles toward books as a part of their daily environment, can be made for the purpose of knowing the field in which the library may do its work most effectively, because purposely done.

The subject of formal education has not been in such a state of turmoil and discussion since the days of Horace Mann and Francis E. Parker. Ideals and opinions are upset, forming and reforming, surging in the minds of really earnest groups trying to find what is really wrong and what is absolutely right in the method and content of educational effort and aims.

Since the library is such an important part in the scheme of education, it is fitting that it should perform its very valuable service of bringing to the attention of educators, parents, advanced students and, indeed, to the general public which should be interested if it is not, the ideas, the criticisms, the prophecies, the demands, the results, that are involved in the great body of writing on educational subjects and on the theme of education itself at this time. Hardly in an-

other field may it be said of so many—He knows not and knows not that he knows not.

In the religious field there is again a surging to and fro, wise and otherwise, among those who from every angle are taking up consideration of matters relating to the religious activity of the world. In many instances, it is futile because it is not springing from real or truthful sources but is based largely on hearsay or prejudice. So then the library's business is to have at hand not controversies on or about religious topics but the original statement itself concerning which interest may be held and on which questionings do arise, as reference sources but not as propaganda.

So in November, on these three occasions, there is a fine chance to set before those for whom the library exists the opportunity which it provides for them in its literature for children, for educational efforts and for consideration of religious subjects. The opportunities are large and imposing, the situation is inspiring.

### An Inspiring Note

NOT for a long time have librarians had so fine a presentation of the present situation, so clear an analysis of conditions, so direct a program for future progress, or so definite an appeal for investigation of effort as was given in the address of Mr C. B. Roden, librarian of the Chicago Public library, at the meeting of the Illinois library association at Peoria. It is the sort of thing which librarians have wanted to hear for a long time and Mr Roden deserves the thanks of the profession for saying it and also for saying it so well.

Special attention is called to what he says on p. 492—of the next step in li-

brary administration, bringing together the right book and the right person, of placing greater emphasis upon service to the individual and particularly, to what he says of "the vicious circle". But in truth, the whole article is so replete with thought-provoking ideas, given in an arresting fashion that it is hard to particularize. Librarians of all degrees will find in it much to digest to the future good of their calling.

Something may be said in passing of the gift of expression which Mr Roden possesses to an enviable degree and which always lends peculiar force to what he has to say.

### Illinois Library Association

The twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Illinois library association was held at Peoria, September 26-28, 1923.

The meeting began on Wednesday afternoon and after a few words of greeting by the president, Miss Ida F. Wright, librarian of the Evanston public library, the usual reports were presented.

Legislative activity was of three kinds—bills for school library supervisor, certification and finance, each in charge of a separate committee. The finance committee carried thru, but hardly, the others, not at all. The recruiting committee, Mrs A. W. Errett, chairman, did a good year's work from which results may be expected.

A welcome to Peoria was given by Dr Wiley and by E. B. Hamilton of the library board.

Two lines of interest divided the attendance into two groups, one following a study course in books for children, the other discussing reference books. In the study group, Edith C. Moon of Evanston discussed

#### Sets of books for library use

Probably one of the most trying and oft-recurring problems which librarians have to meet is that of subscription sets of books for children.

In some respects it is much easier to dispose of this problem for the library than it is for the home. The library, generally, has some and oftener most of the subject-matter contained in a given set in cheaper form and the question is whether a duplication is necessary. In many homes this is not the case, and the desire is genuine to build up a good library for the children. Going over the publication under consideration, it is quite easy to show the mothers how they can spend their money to better advantage by giving them titles of whole books covering all the essential points, thus creating a library with greater individuality which appeals more strongly to children. Whether we, as librarians, realize it or no, our position in the community is

that of an authority in the field of books. Again the library is responsible to the community for the wise expenditure of money in book-buying. These two facts must be weighed thoroughly before we yield to any agent.

Knowing, through experience, the use made of books in our community, is the subject matter in the set under consideration of vital importance and presented in such a way as to make it useful and usable in the library? Is the treatment such as to recommend the workmanship? How recently published? How up-to-date are the statistics and method of presentation? Are the historical facts correct and is the information accurate?

These are questions which the librarian must investigate for herself, by comparison with authorized adult reference works. This, of course, necessitates an opportunity to see the complete set before purchase. This may be difficult to accomplish; and a set should never be accepted on approval without a written agreement with the responsible representatives of the firm, otherwise a bill may be presented.

If it is found impossible to inspect the books on approval, take time to write for a review from the Commission or some of the larger libraries giving special attention to book selection. The fact that comparatively few sets of books are found on the shelves of libraries where the books are always examined and verified before purchased, is significant.

As stated before, sets are very expensive, especially so for a library because so much of the subject matter is a duplication of that which it has in cheaper form in the regular children's books. Another very serious consideration is that one must buy a whole set in order to replace one worn-out or lost volume; this alone condemns the type for public libraries.

Again most libraries do not have book funds sufficiently large to warrant the expenditure of \$45 to \$50 for a set of books on any one subject. The problem confronting all of us is how



to maintain a rounded and balanced collection with the funds at our command. This is a point which should be brought to parents' attention when they seek advice. Thirty to seventy-five dollars will purchase a very interesting collection of books covering a wide range of subject-matter for a child's home book shelf rather than a collection of extracts, retold classics and abstracts or a set of ten volumes devoted to history or animal lore.

One other suggestion should be mentioned before concluding these generalizations in regard to buying sets of books. If it is desired to purchase such volumes, it is worth noting that generally they may be had in very satisfactory condition from the second-hand dealers at very interesting reductions.

In the discussion that followed, especial mention was made of the new edition of the World Book. Specializes in material upon United States—never lacking in geographic material. Articles are signed, and at the close, it contains references to other articles upon the same subject—a feature that teaches the child to look up further material. Pictures numerous, maps brilliantly colored. Language suitable for children. After the sixth grade, children should be led to use the New International. Compton's encyclopedia contains longer articles, with pictures a prominent feature. The necessary use of the index in locating articles makes its use somewhat difficult if a crowd of children is waiting.

Special emphasis was placed upon the necessity of conserving funds and not duplicating, in more or less expensive sets, material already in the library.

The second part of the study related to

#### Lists of books

by Jessie G. VanCleve of A.L.A. *Booklist*.

Lists of books are tools. They represent books that have been judged the best. They are usually prepared for a definite purpose or to meet a definite demand.

It is a joy to select the right book for the right person, but that is not always possible. The next best thing perhaps is to make lists which will help people to select worth-while books for themselves.

Three lists especially helpful in the selection of children's books are:

The Pittsburgh Carnegie library list—1920, 2 volumes. Has good annotations, a good list of reference books, and an excellent subject index.

The A. L. A. Catalog Supplement, which lists more than 600 titles selected from back numbers of the *Booklist*—has the advantage of having all books upon one subject together. Gives an idea of a balanced selection.

The "Graded list of books," graded according to age, is useful in school work.

Shorter lists and lists that cover special subjects are:

Miss Hewin's List of books for boys and girls.

Miss Hazeltine's Plays for children, annotated—key to books in which plays are found.

The Boston Book Shop for Boys and Girls has an excellent catalog which serves as a good buying list for the use of parents as it is attractive in make-up, has a good author index, and the books are well chosen.

Supplementary and shorter lists such as Buffalo's "Books to grow on" are of value in club work and lectures. The A.L.A. lists, which are available to all, are likewise most useful in this connection.

Three of the best lists on story telling are Pittsburgh's "Stories to tell to children," Miss Scott's "Graded list of stories to tell and read aloud," and Miss Whiteman's "One hundred stories for the amateur story-teller."

At the second session of the "study" Miss VanCleve discussed

#### Standards for current book selection

In preparing the children's department of the *Booklist*, note is made of the valuation put upon new books by the librarians. It is hard to put in 50 words the criticism of any book, but certain standards are kept in mind—in the selection of fact, fiction, fairy tales and poetry. History should be authentic and unpreju-

diced and yet written in such a way as to hold the interest. The same standard used in the selection of adult biographies may be applied in selecting juvenile books of this class. Travel is important as it gives the child his impression of other lands and other customs and manners.

Great care should be taken in the selection of stories, as the child's literary development depends largely on the early formation of taste. May lead to art, music, etc., or simply to the reading of mediocre fiction. Books of fiction therefore should be well written, contain good morals and be worth while.

The old fairy tales are better than the new. Later ones are apt to be forced, stilted and lacking in sincerity.

Then followed

#### Discussion of non-fiction

by Miss Moon.

Lists were distributed covering stories for boys and girls, non-fiction for boys and girls, primers and readers, which were briefly discussed by Miss Moon, in a delightful way.

In commenting upon some of the outstanding titles, Miss Moon said that we find children *do* enjoy good books. In order to interest them in the best, we must have read the books ourselves.

Little Women was placed at the head of the list for girls.

The Altsheler books were recommended, especially the Young Trailer series; thrilling but historical facts correct. Master Skylark and Barnaby Lee needed to be introduced by the librarian.

Various editions were noted, the most practical and yet inexpensive being stressed; the point was made, however, that the more attractive the edition, the wider its appeal, and therefore its greater use in the long run.

MacMillan's Children's classics, Scribner's Young People's library, The Washington Square classics, were a few of the editions in which were found good titles in attractive form.

#### Reference section

The first meeting of the Reference section opened on Wednesday afternoon. The room was gay with posters

which the chairman, Dr. Koch, explained were not of Harold Lloyd in "Safety Last", but served to illustrate the paper of the afternoon on "Safety First."

Mary B. Day, librarian of the National Safety Council, gave a helpful address, pointing out the development of intelligent study of how to prevent accidents in every condition in life. At first, separate concerns "preached and printed" advice and rules relating to prevention of accidents until the efforts began to show results. As the work grew, the need of a central clearing house was seen where accurate information from all over the world could be gathered and distributed where it was needed. In 1912, the National Safety Council was organized and headquarters were established in Chicago. Enormous amounts of information in written and printed form are sent out daily. The printed matter would be valuable and helpful for all libraries.

Over 50 pamphlets have been published, about six each year, compiled by engineers who have made a thorough study of the subject. Some of the subjects already covered in these pamphlets are, ladders, goggles, industrial ventilation, fire prevention, fatigue, mine cars and haulage, and many other subjects. Many miscellaneous publications are issued from time to time.

While the safety movement at first was almost entirely industrial, in recent years study of all phases of public safety activities, state and city traffic regulations are included. Over 40 affiliated offices of the National Safety Council in cities throughout the country are coöperating with many agencies to have traffic laws enforced, and to educate the community to the seriousness of the problem. As a result, courses have been given for automobile drivers, for elevator men, as well as for foremen and safety supervisors; 276 school systems are giving definite safety instruction in the elementary schools, and 142 of this number have introduced the work as a part of the

regular curriculum, and not as an incidental subject.

The income of the National Safety Council is derived from members. A special membership for libraries and educational institutions includes one copy of the *National Safety News* and a set of 35 poster bulletins, one *Safe Practice*, as issued, and the use of the library and information bureau service.

Special bibliographies on such a subject as safety work with children, reading lists for the teacher and one for the pupil may be obtained as part of the service. A close contact is kept with the various governmental and state agencies, as well as with the various professional associations and nothing is published by the Council unless it is authoritative.

New books as reference material was presented by Winifred Ver Nooy, assistant, readers' department, University of Chicago.

Miss Ver Nooy recommended briefly the following:

**New guide to reference books** by Miss Mudge, which adds 500 new titles. Published by A. L. A.

**New supplement to the A. L. A. catalog;** valuable annotations, and has classification numbers.

**American library directory**, published by R. R. Bowker Co. Lists nearly 10,000 libraries with names of librarians. No index. Libraries arranged by type.

V. 30-32 of the *Britannica*. Especially valuable for late war material—and for biography.

**Compton's Encyclopedia.** 7 volumes of text.

**College Standard Dictionary**, \$5. Up-to-date, contains location of towns since the peace treaty.

**Mathews and Smith—Dictionary of Religion and Ethics**, \$8. Good.

**Year Book of the Churches.**—Good as a directory. Gives names of the different organizations and short histories of the various bodies included.

**Missionary Education Movement**, \$1.50.

**Browne, Waldo R. What's What in the Labor Movement**, Huebsch. \$4. Defines terms, treats principally of British and American labor, contains 1500 definitions.

**American Labor Year Book.** Rand School of Social Science, \$2.

**Insurance Almanac and Encyclopedia.** Underwriters Printing & Publishing Co. \$2.

Another valuable annual gives over 100 pages—**Who's Who in the Insurance World.**

**The Reference Shelf:** A series of books published by the H. W. Wilson Co. 75c each. Bibliographies on topics of current interest.

**Mexican Year Book.** Standard authority on Mexico, 1920-21. Mexican Year Book Publ. Co. \$7.50.

**Filsinger, Commercial Travelers Guide to Latin America.** U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, \$1.25. Gives travel routes, chief commercial centers, principal hotels, etc.

**Aircraft Year Book**, \$3. Annual, containing much information.

**Beman—Selected Articles on Current Interest.** H. W. Wilson, \$2.40. *Debater's handbook series.*

**Myers-Denys, Peter. Manual of Treaties and Collections relating to Treaties.** Harvard University Press, \$7.50. Arranged by subject.

**League of Nations.** Handbook of International Organization, alphabetical list by name, address, date of foundation, purpose, officers.

**Hoyt—Dictionary of Quotations.** Much enlarged. Excellent indexes. Funk, \$7.50.

**Burlin Natalie Curtis—Indian Book.** Beautifully illustrated. Harper, \$7.50.

#### Discussion

Miss Ahern stated that the work of America's secretary of war and others in the administration of affairs at the time of the Great War was quite unjustly and unfairly presented in the volume of *Britannica* dealing with it, and the same might be true of other countries, which rendered the volumes untrustworthy. She commended Browne's *What's what* in the labor world and told of the debt book people of Illinois owed to the work of the Browne's as former editors of the *Dial* in Chicago.

Mr Utley was interested to note that the A.L.A. catalog had been one of the first reference books mentioned—and said the A.L.A. would be glad to know what the librarians thought of a new edition of the A.L.A. catalog.

In answer to a question as to the best way of filing maps, Mr. Windsor said the university grouped by countries.

#### New ideas in equipment and supplies

Mr Sampson of the Library Bureau said most of the suggestions came from the librarians themselves and that dealers kept in close touch

so as to know what was wanted and what was feasible. At this meeting, L.B. was calling especial attention to the Flexi-file, a device for keeping material in a vertical file—*vertical*. Especially useful in the care of music and victrola records, but desirable in the keeping of all vertical file records.

Mr Spalding of Gaylord Brothers suggested a standardization of supplies bearing the stamp of approval of librarians—something like the stamp of approval given by the Good Housekeeping institute. He questioned the validity of saying "A.L.A. standard" as the A.L.A. had never standardized anything. Miss Ahern and Mr Hanson both remembered a number of things that had been so standardized—the size of the catalog card, the size of pages, entries, L-sheet and other supplies. The proceedings of the A.L.A. testify to standardization. It was simply said to be so for selling purposes.

Mr Utley said he thought the speaker was mistaken. His own feeling was that library supplies had been approved and therefore standardized in the early days of the A.L.A.

Dr Koch said they were trying this term a six-sided cylinder, holding a list of their reserved books, a line to a title.

Mr Windsor gave a short talk on the proposed new library building at the University of Illinois. The building is Georgian in style and is planned to meet the needs of the university for the next 100 years. The first appropriation will be used in building the first unit—which will contain delivery room and main reading rooms, which will seat 500 readers.

Mr Windsor's talk was illustrated with drawings showing size and arrangement.

At the close of the meeting, a visit to the Peoria public library was made. Surprise and much pleasure were felt by everybody at the great improvement in appearance, arrangement and service which had been made since the last meeting in the city.

#### Reference—second session

Book selection in the Hill reference library of St. Paul, Minn., was most in-

terestingly set out by Helen K. Starr, cataloger of that library. A picture of the founder as a young man learning to use and appreciate books was charmingly painted. His ideas and ideals as carried out by this great up-to-date reference library were inspiring. Old editions are constantly discarded in favor of the latest and best in an effort to carry out the wishes of its founder.

Dr Koch called attention to some tested bibliographies on current topics and also spoke on present state of the German book market, inviting libraries to send delegates to a conference with Mr Hans Harrassowitz in Chicago. Dr Pierce Butler, custodian of the Wing collection, Newberry library, gave an account of his recent trip to Europe for the purchase of incunabula.

George B. Utley took up the general topic of How to advertise reference service. He thought that the average public library might do well to adopt a slogan like "Think of the library first," which could be spread by use of the newspapers, on dodgers and blotters and telephone pads. One library stimulated interest and brought more patrons with reference questions by having the local paper run a special weekly department containing reference questions received at the library during the previous week, published with the answers. Special attention should be paid to answering reference questions that go out in writing. A satisfied patron is the best advertiser of a library, as well as of a store. An answer which makes a hit will be told about.

J. C. M. Hanson of the University of Chicago gave in an informal manner, some reminiscences of the early days of the Library of Congress, shortly after its removal to the new building. It was during those two years—1897-99—that the question was to be decided whether the library was to take a place among the libraries of the world, with scholarly men as its officials, or whether it was to continue a tool of the politicians. President McKinley and members of Congress were interviewed by prominent librarians. Congressman Hitt

of Illinois saw the needs of the library and was its strong champion. Gradually inefficient workers were dropped and persons of ability were called to Washington, not a few from the Newberry library, Chicago, and other places in the Middle-West, and the foundation was laid for a library which stands as one of the great libraries of the world.

On Wednesday evening, many citizens of Peoria joined the librarians in a social hour after the program. Dancing and refreshments added to the pleasure of the occasion.

The program opened with an address by C. B. Roden, librarian of Chicago public library. (See p. 489-494.)

James Weber Linn, professor of English, University of Chicago, gave a characteristic address. His subject was

#### Reading—Exercise or recreation?

He said, in part:

While you librarians may not realize it, you are all in the business of university education. Have you not all had Carlyle thrown at you a thousand times—"The true university is a collection of books"?

As you will see from the program, I have divided my talk into two parts, reading for recreation and reading for exercise. We may read for information, for discipline or to pass the time.

When I was a young boy I lived in an Illinois town not far from here, and it had a public library—over the hardware store. I used in those days to go to the library, curl up in a chair and read two books through in an afternoon. What did I read? Castlemon, Henty and Elsie books. I read 42 Elsie books! I was the despair of the librarian, poor old lady; she fought, bled and died over me in vain. She felt I was wasting my time, wanted me to read Thackeray, Dickens and Scott and being unable to bring this about unaided, went to the court of last resort, my father. My father was the Presbyterian minister in the town but he was also a human being and he told her to let me alone. She felt badly about this but the experience wasn't so bad for me, for later I got where I could

read almost anything—I've read Babbitt and Rasselas and I've sometimes even found a certain degree of pleasure in reading the *Congressional Record*. There are two things that I have never been able to read—Spencer's Faery queen and Harold Bell Wright. One has to draw the line somewhere.

My reading then was pure recreation—there was no exercise about it. So far as exercise went I might as well have been playing marbles. That was what the librarian said and yet, it had this advantage over marbles, it took me out of myself, made me realize other worlds than my own. When I came to the Conquest of Peru I went straight back to Henty. With the Civil war it was the same thing. Without being boastful I feel that I can say I do know a good deal about the Civil war. I suppose I have read 150 books about it but it all goes back to my early recreational reading. Why, I'm the only man in Chicago who really understands the Ku Klux Klan. I got it from Grandmother Elsie.

If any one knows anything of child psychology, and I don't, he knows that the child must be interested first and accurate later.

All that I read was clean stuff as it happened yet I can't remember when I read "Droll stories" and the "Decameron". I don't know that they had ever been definitely forbidden, but they were forbidden. My father was a minister. Of course I didn't read these in the library. I read these in the barn. Even so, I suffered no great harm. Some time ago my 13 year old daughter brought in Lime House nights. I didn't forbid her reading it but I told her that I thought she would enjoy it more a few years later and when she finally read it she said, yes, she thought it was a good thing that she waited. But this is the problem of parents, not of librarians.

Your problem in this is not to expect too much. Whatever has taken the place of Optic, Castlemon and Finley with youth now-a-days, I don't know, but get plenty of it and let the children read it freely. They will quickly recognize the better stuff of the same kind. I remem-



ber Huck Finn, one out of a thousand, Tinkham Brothers' tide mill, Little women—oh, awful Little men and still awfuller Jo's boys! I picked up Jo's boys the other day and could not read it at all but Little women is still readable.

All of this is purely recreational, no worse for children than Main street or Glimpses of the moon or Lawrence's Lost girl for us grown-ups.

Plenty of reading beside fiction should be undertaken as purely recreational; biography, history, exploration. The curse of young people is the fear that they will learn something from them. Get them to trust you. Tell them that a book is exciting, or funny or fascinating, never mind that it's true. The truth won't hurt them. When you drive, remember that children are pigs. My mother was a wise woman. She used to say when she wanted me to read a book—*Quentin Durward*, *Ben Hur* or *Uncle Tom's cabin*, "Maybe this is a little old for you, perhaps you better not read it". Thus challenged, of course I responded; when had she said "I want you to read this book," I would have been on the defensive at once.

With most children, it is useless to ask them to read poetry. They must first have it read aloud by some one who can read it but *have* poetry, *Stevenson*, *Henry*, *Houseman*, *Service* and others. It is purely recreational reading.

I have a *Browning* course in the University of Chicago. Students enter this class with an idea that *Browning* is subtle, out-of-date or harsh, almost anything that is not readable. I usually begin by reading something aloud to them. "The Italian in England", perhaps because it is not so well known. I think I'll venture to read it to you. . . . . Now that isn't difficult and it isn't harsh. It's as musical as "Where Claribel low-lieth" or anything else of *Tennyson's*. It's not just poetry, it's *sense*.

When reading turns to exercise, that's quite a different matter. Don't fool, at first, with the idea that it's a pleasure. Reading for exercise is a *job*. No fiction should be read for exercise. Fiction that a child is forced to read is never good

for him. It's the same as forcing a child to play tennis. He is sure to hate it.

Reading for exercise is reading to understand and to remember and contains definite elements of self-discipline. Like foot-ball practice, it may be dull in itself, but it is absolutely necessary if one is to accomplish the desired end.

Make the reader understand the value of the end. This is not definitely your job, it belongs more particularly to teachers and parents. The question is how you may best co-operate with them.

In the first place by not pretending. In my course in nineteenth century English, I say, for instance, of *Ruskin's Unto this last*, "Don't tell me that you don't like it or that you find it dull. Many of you will, but that's not the point. This man had something to say that influenced the thought of his time. What was it? Be sure you know. If you can't find out by reading it once, read it twice, read it five times if necessary. If it seems silly to you, let it, but know whether you agree or disagree and why. I am the doctor and this is what the doctor orders." Then they get the right perspective.

Secondly, you can co-operate by never recommending a book unless you know exactly what it's about. Read it or get the opinion of some one you can trust. (Not the publishers.) This is about as far as a librarian can go in books for exercise.

When it comes to attracting people to the library, serving them, listing books for them to read, you know much more about that than I do, but I do wish to emphasize this one distinction a) Reading may be for recreation only and such reading is worth while and you must study and gratify various tastes.

b) Reading may be for exercise, in which case pleasure has nothing to do with it.

Speaking on the first evening to a group of librarians I should, perhaps, essay the complimentary. Frankly, I should be a little ashamed to attempt it. The only thing that stands between this country and materialistic stagnation is the schools and the habit of reading. This is what *Sinclair Lewis*, in *Main street*, forgot,

that in the city of books we may all live, no matter where we materially reside. And you, therefore, and the teachers have the real future of the country in your hands. By what you can do to encourage reading you are missionaries of hope. By what you do to discourage it, you are a social ball and chain. You know how hard you work, how little you are paid in money, how hard you have to fight to keep from getting discouraged. Why should I venture to compliment you?

A dollar a year man on the other side saw a company of American soldiers marching to the front. When telling a man of the thrill of pride he experienced when he saw them, his friend said, "Did you compliment them?" "No," he said, "I would have been ashamed to have done so".

#### Trustees' section

In opening the meeting of the Trustees' section, Thursday morning, the chairman, C. M. Higgins, emphasized the importance of conferences between library trustees. He said that as a rule members of library boards are not familiar with the requirements, possibilities or duties of their positions when they are appointed. When this is so, the obligation for attending conferences of other trustees more experienced from longer service is imperative. Mr Higgins strongly urged membership in the state associations so that trustees might contribute their quota to the financial responsibility. While the person himself might be ornamented by having his name among the list of trustees, only those contributing to the success of the library may be counted as ornaments to the library.

Every library trustee ought to ask himself: "Are you alive in this matter or dead?" "Is our money well spent?" "Do I know how to spend it well?" A good trustee will be able to answer these questions in the affirmative, otherwise he is a block which is clogging the wheels of education. A trustee ought to fill the place or get out and let another do the work which he ought to do but does not

do and which should be done by some one.

The trustees of the library are responsible for the general education of the community. The function of a library is important and trustees should see that it is capable of performing that function to the highest degree, that it is linking mind to mind for the betterment of the world. Trustees ought to register more definitely in the community. The speaker said that as a banker, he is obliged to go into other towns time and again and he finds that prominent citizens whom he meets in his business relations cannot name the trustees of the local public library and yet almost every one, he finds, knows at least the names of the members of the school board.

Trustees should take greater interest in some of the civic problems of the library, as the place for the development of a fine spirit of democracy. In supplementing the efforts librarians should make to solve the foreign problems as well as that of the negro, trustees can be helpful citizens as well. It is not a theory that confronts the people of the community but an actual condition.

Trustees should be alive to needed state legislation, not only alive but intelligent, and see to it that proper legislation is enacted and that improper legislation is laid aside. When a community understands the library problem as well as it understands the school problem, legislators will give more heed to the needs of the former. Books are as much the instruments of education as are the schools and people generally are keen for information which is of interest to them or literature which appeals to them and something is wrong with the library when books leave the community cold.

Outstanding things which seem to assure interest in and use of the library and consequent betterment of the community are books suited to the needs of the library and better prepared librarians. The institution must have a brain which the community will respect, a strong individuality supplemented by fair reasonableness.

To sum it up, the duty of the library trustee is to get the library to function as near 100 per cent as possible.

The report by Anna May Price of the Extension division, State library, gave some startling figures concerning conditions in the state. Among the points she mentioned were: The salary schedule for the state shows an increase of two per cent from 1914-1922; difficulty has arisen in some instances by library boards anticipating their incomes, an unbusiness-like and dangerous habit to form. Another thing equally deplorable is to allow other departments to encroach on the money reserved for the library. Library money is a specific tax set aside for library purposes and is not to be handled by any other departments except the library board.

Library directors should keep in mind their obligations to the next board in the matter of library finances and the custom of handling them, in the matter of repair and up-keep, etc., which ought to be made in the term of those forming the obligation. The record of libraries which anticipate their funds does not reflect great credit on those who handle the funds. Throughout the state there is more or less use of warrants rather than actual funds. Rockford is in the best condition in this matter owing to a reduction of 20 per cent in the use of warrants, but the rest of the state uses at least 75 per cent of city warrants rather than actual funds. The board ought not to advance money for library support and most particularly, not out of personal funds.

A library trustee from Cicero reported that one year, the city council of that place failed to spread the tax levy and the library is now handicapped by having lost a whole year's income. This trustee also advocated that the trustees' section should make arrangements by which they could engage the services of a lawyer who would be at their service and give them such legal advice in matters where it was needed as would help in

the administration of their affairs. It was suggested that perhaps it would be more advisable to have a lawyer as a member of the board, in which case the situation would be so well understood that better service could be obtained.

The next topic, Changes that would increase the usefulness of the library, was introduced by Rabbi Meyer Lovitch, the only one of the six persons named to discuss it. He pleaded for a democratic spirit in libraries, saying that if any bending toward the individual was indulged in at all, it should be to those who are not fortunate in this world's goods, recalling that many a humble reader and learner had returned in full measure to the community interest the product of his reading. The library is in a position to be the one institution in the community to lead in the effort to generate good feeling in the community. Rabbi Lovitch closed his address by making a plea in support of the efforts of the Jewish people throughout the country to have the mural painting in the Boston public library, representing Hebrewism as an old woman looking backward, changed into something which, in the minds of the Jewish people, would more truthfully represent their religion.

The trustee's point of view was presented by Mrs S. E. Mason, Savanna, who told of the things they had done in her city to popularize the library. Advertisements in the newspapers, slides in "movies," and the use of a room in the library for public gatherings had popularized the library in Savanna.

John H. Roth, Peoria, emphasized the need of a more democratic attitude on the part of the library trustee, the library staff and even the library itself. He said he should like to see the awesome inscriptions on most libraries removed and replaced by something like "Your library, for the use of the people." He thought the library trustees and staff should do more than has been done in making all the activities in the

community understand that books and other printed material in the library would be of advantage. He was of the opinion that, except for a few "personal friends" in Bookland, people generally ought to give up trying to have private libraries and give the good books which they buy and allow to accumulate in their homes to the public library.

Mr Roth set out his views of what he would like to see the public library in his own city accomplish in the future. The library should be a community center so far as the distribution of knowledge is concerned. It should be thought of always as a place where something can be learned or found out, or information of any kind secured. His ambition is that the Peoria library should do more yet in extending its privileges to those persons who are outside the library, particularly those living a distance from the main library. He felt that provisions should be made to take books to the people. The public library is established and conducted to do for all the people what the individual cannot do for himself. He hopes to see branches in various parts of the city, deposits in all the large manufactories and is especially desirous of having branches or deposit stations in the splendid Labor Temple which is located in Peoria.

Mrs G. C. Ashman emphasized the value of the library as an educational factor in the community, for schools, clubs, organizations of all kinds, and also for the individual. She thought library trustees generally took their positions too much as a matter of course and consequently too long library boards have been made up of figure heads. Personal service is the biggest thing in the world and unless "the great people" of the community are willing to do this service, it is a mistake to place them on library boards or in any other place of responsibility. Trustees ought to know the library, its contents, its rules and regulations, what can and cannot be done so that

from time to time as they are asked, they may speak intelligently of their trust.

There is danger of too much "personality" developing when trustees remain on the library board too long, particularly if such trustees are inactive. The trustee ought to be an effective worker for the library cause in all its relations if he assumes a place of trust for the community.

The afternoon session opened with a recital by Mrs Ashman of the failure of the library legislation which was attempted during the year. Mrs Ashman was not elated over the handling of the bills by the legislative committees and various individuals, but felt that if librarians and trustees had been more interested and active in pushing the bills, the legislators would have responded to their demands.

The bills before the legislature were:

- 1) To provide a library supervisor for the school libraries of the state, to be attached to the office of State superintendent of public instruction.
- 2) A bill for compulsory certification of librarians of Illinois.

In closing her address, Mrs Ashman said those in charge of the matter would not be discouraged as they realized that progress may be a slow thing but if efforts are continuous, results will come. She advised that those who wished to see this legislation enacted should be prepared before the next legislature to get local backing for the bills. The state officers engaged in carrying out the wishes of the people should be gotten in line. This work cannot all be done in Springfield.

In the matter of supervision of school libraries, what has been done in other states ought to be encouragement for Illinois. She said that seven states now provide by law for supervision of school libraries—Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Wisconsin, New Jersey, New York and Oregon.

E. D. Tweedell, trustee, Hinsdale public library, discussing the trustee's part in library success said:

The library board must assume ultimate responsibility for the success or failure of the library as a community institution. The success of the library demands that the trustees not only have knowledge of what the library does and its purpose, but also vision and a broad outlook as to future possibilities.

Mr Tweedell's paper will be given in full in a near number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

"Should library trustees be reelected term after term" was answered in the affirmative by Mrs Alice Bowen, Savannah, since she herself had been able to do the work she had done for the library in her city only after many years of service as a trustee.

Dr Carl E. Black, perhaps the veteran member of the Trustees' section, at least one who has taken seriously his mission in connection with library service, was both entertaining and instructive in his address on The Controlling considerations in appointing a librarian. So pleased was the audience with Dr Black's address that at the close of the meeting he was elected chairman of the Trustees' section for 1924.

B. F. Hardy, trustee of the Public library, Decatur, in speaking on The Guiding factor in the selection of library books said that the principles in book selection had become so standardized that there was little left for trustees to say concerning the matter. In the Decatur library, selections were made by the librarian from the *A. L. A. Booklist*, bulletins of other libraries and approved lists, and only occasionally the trustees made suggestions as to what books to purchase. The librarian in Decatur was instructed to order books for which there was a special demand without waiting for approval by the committee.

At the close of the meeting, the association as a body was invited to take an auto tour of Peoria parks, ending with a visit to the Peoria country club where refreshments were served. The beauty of the surroundings of Pe-

oria was a great surprise to many of the visitors.

#### General session—Thursday a. m.

Mr Windsor explained that the topic of Certification had been placed on the program with the idea of threshing out the question and giving members of the association an opportunity to express themselves on the subject. The principles of certification had been approved at three I. L. A. meetings and three bills had been introduced into the legislature but nothing accomplished as yet. There had been considerable opposition, and the time had come when we should decide what should be done and then work together.

Mr Levin of Chicago public library spoke briefly in favor of certification, gave the provisions of the bill as introduced, called attention that the measure was not retroactive, and hence did not imperil the position of any one at present in the work, did not apply to librarians in towns of fewer than 2000 people.

He referred to the fact that if Illinois librarians wished to put their calling on a professional or academic basis, this would be a step in the right direction. Regardless of form, the state should have some sort of certification. In Iowa voluntary certification had not been especially successful. There were a number of other states that had introduced certification bills, California in 1909, New York in 1922 and in Wisconsin the law was absolute.

Miss Skogh in speaking on the negative said, in part, that there had as yet been no bill devised that would cause two salaries to grow where only one had grown before, nor that would cause the one salary to grow so lustily that it would attract and hold the properly trained and certified librarian. While it might eliminate many poor librarians it could not immediately create a plentiful supply of good ones.

A compulsory standard would be out of harmony with founding and conduct of libraries. Practically all library laws are permissive rather than mandatory.

As a national plan it is based upon too large an administrative unit. If left to



the states it will probably be a haphazard affair. Should the certification bill introduced into our own legislature be passed the possibility of its enforcement would be very slight. Libraries do not receive state aid and funds could not be withdrawn by the state if the library failed to comply with the law.

Final conclusions drawn by Miss Skogh were:

This bill puts under a state department which already has in its administration many trades, professions and occupations, a wholly unrelated and variant type of profession, and dictates to the department a method of certification not followed in any of the other groups, all of which are certified by examination and in no other way.

If the bill became a law, it would establish a policy but be practically unenforceable. It is directed against the library boards. Lacking any state funds for libraries which could be withheld for non-compliance in special localities, and lacking a penalty which could be exacted from the violator, the only other penalty that could be used in enforcement would be a mandamus suit against the board members, instituted by the taxpayer. There is little likelihood of that method of enforcement.

It is difficult to make a bill of this character fair to those now in service. A wholesale exemption of all now in service would defeat the very purpose of the bill, which should be the rapid improvement of Illinois library service in toto. For those who have spent their lives in the service it names for a life certificate the same requirement for a librarian in a town of 2000 as in a city of 100,000, a requirement which can justly be resented by those whose continued educational work has given them a well deserved high standing and influence in their own communities.

At present there is no well developed method of training in service which can give an incentive to those who can not leave their work for several years to study, to attempt to progress any higher than a third grade certificate.

Because of the lack of definitely formulated standards by which the work of any library or library school can be fairly judged, the time for state legislation, which should be the final, not the preparatory step, is not here.

It is quite possible that all of these difficulties could be better handled by an experimental voluntary certification *within the association* such as is being tried out in other states, whence would come a greater understanding of the working out of the detailed provisions of any such scheme. More

favorable opinion might also thereby be gained.

Let us not first experiment with legislation. If it fails, as it undoubtedly would if passed in its present form, it leaves nothing further to be done. Improve the further service by every method within reason. Do not attempt to exhaust opportunities for improvement by appealing as a first and experimental measure, to the court of last resort.

Miss Skogh quoted from the "Williamson report" which Mr Windsor urged every librarian to get and read. This may be secured from the Carnegie Corporation, New York. There was little discussion as it was late when the papers were finished.

#### Thursday afternoon session

Miss Sarah C. N. Bogle shared with the association her memories of a "dream come true" in telling of the fascination of the new library movement in France.

She had gone over to take charge of a library school in Paris where there was a great eagerness for knowledge of American library methods. Visiting the Library school at the University of London she had found 100 enrolled for library training—the two years' course scholarly, the one year course practical.

This trip across had not been without its social features. There had been dinners and "audiences," and a box at the opera in Brussels, next to that of the king who was entertaining the king of Norway and his royal suite. They had courtesies and real kindness from those who might have proved but chance acquaintance.

"France, while regaining shelter and food and the physical comforts of life, must have food for the spirit as well and whatever America is able to do to help her will bring to us rich returns in unlocking for us stores of European knowledge. Ignorance is the menace of civilization; we should no longer be content to be internationally ignorant."

#### Story-telling

Following Miss Bogle's talk, Miss Van Cleve gave "An hour of stories and story-telling."

The story, said Miss Van Cleve, is worth while as a work of art. Story-

telling in a library is valuable because it leads to books and introduces children to literature, opens up new fields and helps in the interpretation of literature.

Great care should be taken in making out a program. In telling but one story, think of the fitness and appeal of that single story for the audience, but in preparing a program that is to last six months there should be fairy and folk stories, repetitive stories which children so dearly love, realistic stories, rhymes and jingles, and poetry, which they *do* like. Then there are cycle stories—King Arthur, Robin Hood, and the Norse stories. In the preparation of these one reads much that one never uses. Often, in the older stories it is well to tell something about the countries, explaining the meaning of unusual words—skalds, vikings, etc.

In telling just an ordinary story, a good preparation is to read the story two or three times and to think of it as a series of pictures. "Forty children are enough in a group. Don't sit when speaking to a large group. Don't put too much of yourself into your stories. It is not necessary to impersonate all of your characters. Pitch your voice low and have it carry, and have faith in your story that it will go."

After her talk Miss Van Cleve told charmingly the story of The sleeping beauty, and The story of the proud rooster, a selection from a new volume—The back porch.

The meeting on Thursday evening opened with an address by Anna May Price on The Work of the extension division of the State library, of which Miss Price is superintendent. Miss Price's statements were based on 1922 reports sent in by libraries, from which compilations were made. The statements were confined to reports of free tax-supported or endowed circulating libraries and consisted of comparisons of the reports of 1922 with those of 1914, the first statistics to be compiled of Illinois public libraries. In 1914, there were 176 public libraries; in 1922, 225; in 1914, the income received from taxation was \$732,882; in 1922, \$2,031,-

872; number of volumes in public libraries, in 1914, 1,968,204; in 1922, 3,511,148; number of card holders in 1914, 512,332; in 1922, 963,650. The increase in the number of public libraries and the number of persons having access to free libraries in 1922 was 27 per cent higher than in 1914. The average salary fund in 1922 was 48 per cent; books, 19 per cent; operating expense, 26.2 per cent; binding and periodicals, 6.8 per cent. Thirty-two per cent of the people of Illinois have no libraries and of those who have the use of libraries, 22 per cent are card holders.

The report advised against the closing of libraries in the summer months since that is the season of most leisure. If library buildings are too hot, they should be made comfortable with ventilators and fans. If the library is closed because the staff is weary, a change in the schedule should be arranged or a new assistant taken on. If shorter hours are a matter of economy, a large tax income will not come from shutting the public out of the library. Too much money has been invested in library buildings, equipment and books not to have them available more in place of less hours.

Mary K. Reely, in charge of book selection for the Wisconsin library commission, gave one of the most helpful and most interesting addresses of the meeting in her discussion of Books as interesting as fiction. It was replete with reason, appeal and information. Some of the outstanding statements were as follows:

People do not need to be coaxed to read fiction; the librarian should know books and act as an adviser, much as a health officer in a town or city gives health suggestions; thru good books we can make a much larger world our own; a well-rounded mental development calls for varied reading.

Lists of books prepared by Miss Reely were distributed at the beginning of her talk and it was noticeable, at the close, that those who received

them put them away carefully for future use.

Forrest G. Spaulding talked on "He has a book—what now?" He referred to a sign which he had seen in an automobile wheel factory, and which he had taken as his text, "The longer the spoke, the greater the tire." One message which the speaker wished to bring was that despite all the talk there had been of publicity, knowledge of library work was still a negligible affair. Library commissions, library legislation, library requirements, are understood only by the few. Library board members know little more than the people in the street of the aims and needs of the library. It is quite as essential that the library advertise itself to the members of the library board as to the public. Mr Spaulding had heard a member of a library board say that he was proud to be a member of the board though he did not use the library. The librarian is handicapped when it comes to making the budget for library expenditures by the fact that she is a paid official. Regarding the statement that the library should never be in politics, the speaker stated that under existing conditions, it has to be in politics and play the political game. The trouble is that libraries work without any well defined plan. Too few libraries have set for themselves any well defined plan of action.

The Public library section, in charge of Pearl I. Field, Chicago, held a very interesting session on Friday morning.

#### Interesting board meetings

"Making the library board meeting interesting" was a very illuminating and splendid paper by Anna F. Hoover, Galesburg, written out of Miss Hoover's own experience with the addition of experiences, suggestions, recommendations, ideas, old and new, tried and untried, gathered by propounding inquiry both personally and by correspondence.

Out of Miss Hoover's own experience she stated that among the things that go toward making a board meeting inter-

esting are the personnel of the board and the harmony which exists among the members. "Nine congenial people find plenty to talk about and have to come slowly back to business, but one disagreeable member can keep eight others away, if sufficiently disagreeable." Other factors are the attitude of the librarian, the coöperation between the librarian and the board, the efficiency of the chairman of the meeting, the topics brought up for discussion, preparedness for the meeting and the number and scope of committees.

The library board at Galesburg is made up of a physician, a college professor, a merchant, three lawyers, a road foreman, a clergyman and an editor. That the board rarely fails to have a quorum and that no member habitually absents himself from meetings indicate that the meetings are not dull. The librarian makes such preparations that the regular business is disposed of with promptness and dispatch and new business has such a large element of interest in itself that matters of this nature are always enlivening. Directors are interested when they have something to do. Work is planned for the various committees, for the members keeping the library before the public, particularly the schools, those determining the character and quality of the books to be purchased. Where all members subscribe to library periodicals, particularly the *Booklist*, the discussions are enjoyed by all and indulged in with profit and pleasure. Display of books at meetings puts the members of the board more in the library atmosphere, with good effect.

The finance committee sees to it that the Illinois law is observed—that all library funds are handled by the board. This is an interesting item.

The chairman under whose jurisdiction new business comes, secures co-workers' interest and supplements the librarian's suggestions at the board meeting. Petty troubles which the librarian herself can handle should never be brought to the attention of the board. Only statistics should be read; news and data of interest should be given verbally. Among approved suggestions received

was an arrangement for heads of departments to spend 15 minutes at the board meeting relating just what is done in a typical day's work. The acquaintance made is of value and the board meetings are more interesting.

A bright, successful librarian in Iowa has made it a rule to bring into every board meeting excerpts from **PUBLIC LIBRARIES**, with the result that the members look forward to meetings and have begun to find things in **PUBLIC LIBRARIES** for themselves.

Reports of library visits, meetings and conferences which the librarian attends are means of arousing interest. Lengthy reports should be prepared in multigraph form and copies given to each member to take away for careful reading, and the substance of them given verbally. One librarian suggested serving light refreshments to the board to put the members into a receptive state of mind before bringing up measures for adoption. Efforts to find out what part of the work in the library appeals to the individual board member and then securing a visit from that member to the department of his chief interest would create the library spirit so that when discussion of the department comes up, there would be both interest and attention on the part of this member.

If trustees would make it a point to "talk up" the library to their friends, business associates or any one else they would become the library's publicity agents and this would bring a spirit of interest to board meetings.

Miss Hoover closed with a bit of advice from Bacon that is particularly applicable to library meetings—"Measure not dispatch by the time of sitting but by the advancement of business."

Two other papers of particular interest were given at this meeting—What the public should hear and see in a public library: on the physical side, by Mary F. Wynn, Dixon; on the personal side, by Eleanor F. Shaw, Rockford. These papers contained definite orthodox library doctrine and

will be given in full later. Likewise, another phase, The Assistant's opportunities: to serve her library, by Florence D. Love, Decatur; to serve her public, Effie Stilfield, Peoria. These papers contained concrete instructions out of personal experience and will also be given in full in a future number.

### Reports

The Membership committee sent out nearly 400 letters and made personal pleas at the regional conferences held throughout the state, urging membership upon trustees and institutions as well as every library staff in Illinois, with the following results in new memberships: librarians, 39; trustees, 20; institutions, 13; total, 72; bringing the membership of the association to about 537.

Mrs Ashman reported the work of the Legislative committee. Mrs Ashman had found this year a very poor one for securing any legislation, as only a very small per cent of the bills introduced were passed.

A bill authorizing the establishment of a school library supervisor was drafted in Superintendent Blair's office but the bill never got out of committee. Mrs Ashman felt that her experience had been valuable and furnished the foundation for certain suggestions that should be passed on to next year's committee—"We should be very clear as to just what we want, should be unanimous in our support of desired legislation—should inform the legislators from our own districts of our needs and then go down to Springfield—not in twos and threes but in droves."

Mr Tweedell, speaking for the A. L. A., said that the time was soon coming when the American Library Association would have to seek new quarters. The Chicago public library would soon need the space the A. L. A. had been occupying. The committee that had the business in charge was conferring with the Ways and Means committee. They were not yet considering *where* Headquarters would be located, but he would like the association to keep the question in mind.

The following resolution proposed by Dr Wiley was adopted:

Be it resolved that the Illinois library association is conscious of the urgent need for the establishment of a permanent central headquarters for the American Library Association and expresses its desire to co-operate in any way in its power with the committee of the A. L. A. appointed to consider that question.

The report of the Committee on resolutions expressed appropriate sentiments regarding the death of Judge Lansden, Cairo; John B. Wallbridge, Hoopston; Miss Eva Brewer, Mt. Sterling; Mrs Minnie Carroll, Aledo; and Mr Bainum, Paxton; appreciation of courtesies by individuals and organizations who had contributed to the success of the meeting; also to the several hosts at Peoria for their generous hospitality; thanks to the local papers for publicity given the conference and proceedings and to the officers of the association for the excellent program. The committee's report was unanimously adopted.

Miss Reely reviewed some twenty titles on Friday morning in addition to the discussion which she presented at the Thursday evening session.

Mr Roden in speaking of the financial legislation of the past winter told of the narrow escape from disaster which attended the library tax levy. He said that conditions are far from satisfactory and that the increased tax levy was for a period of three years only and that at the next session all the work would have to be done again. He said it was most essential that librarians should understand conditions and inform their trustees and their representatives at Springfield of the need of better library support.

The Executive board had arranged to make awards to librarians of small libraries whose reports of library activity during the year seemed to merit recognition, the award being payment of expenses to the state meeting. These were won by Mrs Nannie Parks, Marion, Mrs Flora Winger, Aledo, and Mrs Elizabeth Southward, Maywood, each of whom told interestingly of the

activities which had won for them the award.

The following officers for 1924 were elected: President, Adah F. Whitcomb, Chicago public library; first vice-president, Harriet Skogh, State library division, Springfield; second vice-president, William Teal, Public library, Cicero; secretary, Nellie E. Parham, Public library, Bloomington; treasurer, Fanny Jackson, State Teachers' library, Macomb. Delegate to A. L. A., Adah F. Whitcomb.

Miss Wright, in resigning her gavel to the new president, Miss Whitcomb, thanked the membership for the cordial support given her administration. Miss Whitcomb in receiving the gavel asked for like support and promised her best work for the coming year.

Very large and unusually interesting displays were made by various book and supply firms, as well as by binderies.

#### American Library Association

The American library in Paris is the official agent for A. L. A. publications in continental Europe.

The A. L. A. library building located at the Naval training camp, Coddington Point, R. I., has become the property of the Newport County council of the Girl scouts and will be removed to the grounds of the Council camp.

Recent additions to the staff of the American library in Paris are Mary Parsons, on leave of absence from the Public library, Morristown, N. J., assistant librarian, a head cataloger, and Mlle Duproix, in the reference department. Mlle Duproix will undertake the building up of the French collection. Her service for one year is the gift of the American committee for work in Devastated France.

The American committee has also made a gift of \$50,000 to the A. L. A. to be used to continue, at the American library in Paris, classes in library training.

The Board of trustees of the American library in Paris, at a recent meet-



ing, voted an expression of thanks and appreciation to Miss Sarah C. N. Bogle for her assistance and the time she devoted to the problems immediately confronting the American library in Paris in its administration. It is the hope of the board that the library may soon be in position to carry into effect Miss Bogle's suggestions in regard to further development of its organization and administration.

The Junior Red Cross has made an initial contribution of 400 children's books, the gift of the Boston junior high-schools, for a public library to be established on the island of Guam. Since few of the natives of the island can read English except school children, children's books and a few elementary technical books are the chief need at present.

The director of the Junior Red Cross, in speaking of the contribution says:

It is our intention to send these 400 books as the first installment toward the children's library in Guam and to follow it by other installments until the library of 1000 titles which the Governor of Guam requested has been completed. In the next installment, we will endeavor to include the first lessons in carpentry, blacksmithing, plumbing, electricity, law and civil government which he suggested.

The American Library Association has given advisory assistance in shaping the plan for the library.

Members of the A. L. A. are no doubt interested in the efforts of the association thru its committees to be of assistance to foreign libraries in their desire to collect American books and other publications.

Col Robert E. Olds, formerly director of the Red Cross in Europe, is much interested in the subject and says:

The greater part of the population of the continent of Europe is now effectively cut off from intellectual intercourse with America. This is a matter of deep concern to us as well as to these people. The contact with intellectual classes has been cut off or no longer exists and there seems little prospect of restoration of political and economic equilibrium which would allow close affiliation with America within a period of time which would prevent irreparable damage. If this intellectual isolation long continues it is fraught with more danger to

the peace of the world than any other single factor in the situation.

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### Recruiting for Librarianship

In a note from Miss Annie B. Jackson, chairman of the Board of trustees North Adams, Mass., she claims to be the "great original recruiting officer." The list of names which she submits contains persons who have made direct and valuable contribution to the development of library service. Among these are Miss Nina E. Browne, her first recruit, whose attention she caught by a college class letter referring to the new vocation for women. Joseph L. Harrison was the second recruit; Mabel L. Temple, librarian of the Public library, North Adams, the third, and Mrs Elizabeth Hardin Furst, librarian, Adams, Mass., the fourth. Miss Jackson is entirely within her rights when she says "I am somewhat proud of my efforts."

### Library of Congress Salaries

The salary budget which is being made out according to classification for government employes in Washington City assigns to employes of the Library of Congress the greatest increase in salary of any agency of the government under group reclassification, 14.4 per cent.

About 150 get no or very slight increase, and two-thirds get increases from \$5 a month upward. Many of the salaries in the library were fixed 20 odd years ago and living expenses are from 60 to 80 per cent higher than in 1914. Many have been classed in the clerical service who should be in the professional.

### Library Meetings

**Chicago**—The first meeting of the Chicago library club for 1923-1924 was held at Ryerson library, October 11.

A social half hour, followed by a short business meeting, at which Edward A. Henry presided, preceded the address of the evening. President Henry announced that a round-table at the John Crerar library is under consideration for the December meeting.

An amendment to the constitution to the effect that regular meetings of the club will be held on the first instead of the second Thursday in the month was adopted.

Eleven new members were received.

#### The foreign newspaper

Prof Robert E. Park, University of Chicago, gave a most interesting address on the Foreign language newspaper.

Prof Park, who has been in the newspaper world for many years and for an even longer period in the educational field, gave an interesting story in his talk on the policies, aims and scope of the foreign newspaper. During the war period, Prof Park, long a sympathetic student of race relations, began an investigation of the foreign language press. He found that the great cities of the United States are largely made up of foreign villages and each of these large areas made up of smaller colonies, each one of which is likely to have a newspaper. Just how many of these papers flourish in this country is not known but the number is estimated at from twelve to fifteen hundred. Forty or more different languages maintain newspapers in America.

The editors of foreign language newspapers are intellectuals who have come to America either to avoid unpleasantness in their own country or because they see in a paper in this country a good business proposition. Foreigners, according to Prof Park, are more eager to read their papers in this country than in the old since they are, in a way, isolated. Having little contact outside their own environment, they are anxious to find out what is going on about them. In the old

country, news travels quickly from village to village and there is little necessity for reading the newspaper. Then, too, away from his own country, the immigrant begins to think of his native land in a different light—he becomes a nationalist or a socialist—and the foreign newspaper is likely to stimulate this feeling. We in America think of the immigrant as bringing with him a reverence for his native home, its languages, its customs, but the peasant belongs only to the church, thinks nothing of his nationality, but when he comes to America, he discovers he is different; he becomes self-conscious; he finds that "a Pole is a Pole". It is hard for him to think of himself as belonging to a country. It is especially hard for the Italian to think of himself as belonging to Italy.

The foreign newspaper creates national sentiment among foreigners, even radical sentiment, but it makes the people think. Altho America is the mecca of foreigners with queer and fantastic ideas of living, religious and economic fanatics, such ideas do not long find fertile soil in the foreign colonies in America and radical newspapers do not long endure. Many foreign newspapers, however, are kept up merely as an avenue of exchange of letters, etc.

The editor of the foreign newspaper is inclined to look with contempt on our newspapers because "anyone can read them"; he wants to write high-brow articles which only the intellectual can comprehend but usually his paper becomes democratized by the pleas of his readers to "make it easy to read," and becomes as "commonplace" as ours.

According to Prof Park, some of the most interesting literature printed in this country appears in the Yiddish press.

**Colorado**—The thirty-third annual meeting of the Colorado library association was held in Evergreen, September 5-7. The place is one of the most charming of the many beautiful mountain resorts of Colorado. The accommodations, while rustic, were comfortable, and the stay most enjoyable. Miss Julia B. Douglas, after many years of patient service, has built up a library

worthy of a larger place. It is housed in a picturesque building. The esteem in which Miss Douglas is held in the community is shown in many ways.

We were welcomed to Evergreen by a reception Wednesday evening, at which Mr Wilmot of Evergreen said that while, in a sense, Evergreen was a walled city, the creeks running through opened it so that no key was necessary for our entrance. Miss Lucretia Vaile of the Denver public library, president of the association, in a most scholarly paper, gave a history of libraries in relation to the life of the community. Miss Bascom, of the University of Texas, was a welcome guest. She gave us a thoroughly enjoyable paper on "Books as a background for living."

Miss Stebbins, of Fort Collins, in speaking of the Hopes of library users, moderately satisfied, said that if patrons are satisfied, librarians must have certain characteristics, among these good-will, courtesy, personal interest and honesty.

Mr Carter, of the State teachers college, in a paper illustrated with many good maps, showed how the state of Colorado helps to get the right books to all of the people and how it should help.

The location of the library, attractiveness of the same and publicity, both inside and out, are aids to get the people to the right books as brought out by Mr Hadley, of the Denver library.

Miss Charlotte Baker of the State agricultural college named some links, such as attractive buildings, neat and well-dressed, good signs, book displays, book lists, etc., forged by librarians to connect readers and the right reading matter.

The beginnings of small libraries was opened up in an enlightening manner by Mrs Isham, of Brighton, and Mrs Hassenplug, of Cripple Creek. Brighton, with a population of 3,000, loaned 30,000 books last year. Running a library on \$41 a month with all services donated is somewhat of a task. Cripple Creek does it.

Mrs Victor Keys spoke for the Parent-Teachers association and showed how the two associations coöperate in children's reading.

The following officers were elected: Mary M. Weaver, Rocky Ford, president; Mrs P. J. McHugh, Fort Collins, vice-president; Miss Patience Pegan, North Side high-school, Denver, secretary and treasurer. Miss Helen Ingersoll, Denver public library, and Mrs Annie P. Hyder, State library, Denver, were elected to the council.

MARY M. WEAVER  
Secretary

**Iowa**—The thirty-third annual meeting of the Iowa library association was held at Fort Dodge, October 9-11. The attendance was not unusually large, being 167, but was, withal, satisfactory.

Having the meeting in the hotel eliminated loss of time in going from hotel to meeting place and gave greater opportunity for visits among librarians and for looking over the exhibits.

The meeting was notable for its cordial spirit and was pronounced by all as one of the best meetings ever held in Iowa.

C. V. Findlay, mayor of Fort Dodge and president of the Fort Dodge library board, welcomed the meeting and Miss Hagey, of Cedar Rapids, second vice-president of the association, replied in a very felicitous manner.

The report of the secretary of the Iowa library commission was a review of the work of the ten years since the present secretary assumed the office. It showed an increase from 111 to 139 public libraries and from 83 to 100 Carnegie buildings in the state. Many items of gain were reported which cannot be given in figures. Certification was one of the forward steps taken.

The announcement of the appointment of Miss Julia Stockett as supervising librarian of the state institutions of Iowa was a matter of much gratification as the position had been vacant four years.

An address by Miss Bogle, of the A. L. A., on European impressions was received with much interest and enthusiasm and the opportunity for librarians to meet Miss Bogle and come in contact

with the American Library Association was greatly appreciated. Miss Bogle also spoke on A. L. A. publications.

The program of the Tuesday evening meeting included besides music and an address a social hour. The meeting was largely attended by citizens of Fort Dodge.

Judge I. Salinger in his address said:

A standing army to defend our country from invasion is of much less importance than that our appetite for learning be made to go in restricted channels. The future of the country rests upon the intelligence of the masses. We must either go forward or backward. If the children of today, the future citizens, are to develop into good citizens they must have the advantage of good surroundings. A person's mental environment absolutely controls the fate of the nation.

On Wednesday morning Mr C. H. Brown, librarian of the Iowa State college at Ames, spoke on The future of librarianship—a trade or a profession. Mr Brown's paper was inspiring and librarians felt that theirs was a high calling.

At a roll call, the librarians present responded with the names of five books of non-fiction which had been in demand in their libraries during the year.

The books receiving the largest vote were Papini's *Life of Christ*, Robinson's *Mind in the making*, Wells' *Outline of history*, Bok's *Americanization of Edward Bok* and Post's *Book of etiquette*. Many others received a large number of votes.

This was followed by a "book conversation" conducted by Miss Lydia Barrette, librarian of the Mason City public library, and Miss Callie Wieder, librarian of the Marshalltown public library.

The "conversation" consisted of a playlet representing the opening of a "Novel Book Shop", the conversation taking place between the proprietor and the new partner who was entering at a salary of \$5000. The subject of the conversation was the titles of the books which should be included in the stock and the number which should be ordered in anticipation of library orders. Miss

Gertrude Sheridan of Algona called and spoke of Brown's "Nights and days on the gipsy trail". Mail was brought in with letters from various librarians of the state giving their opinions of certain books. Miss Rose and Miss Robinson called to order books for the Des Moines public library and the Iowa library commission and in doing so, discussed the books which they ordered.

This number was very cleverly done and the departure from the conventional book talk was appreciated by the librarians.

In the afternoon Miss Veda Taylor, children's librarian at Cedar Rapids, talked on children's books. This was followed by several round-tables.

The Trustees' round-table was led by Mrs H. W. Spaulding of Grinnell. About 20 trustees were in attendance, the interest was alive and an earnest discussion of trustees' problems was held, including the wisdom of library boards making suggestions for appointments at the expiration of terms, the authority of library boards to levy taxes, restricted books and the wisdom of a restricted shelf, ending with a discussion of the subject of trustees' meetings, which all present considered thoroughly worth while.

The round-tables were followed by an auto ride and tea.

On Wednesday evening, Dr Henry Seidel Canby, editor, *Literary Review* of the *New York Evening Post*, gave a very interesting and profitable address on What is American in American literature? This was followed by a social hour.

On Thursday morning Miss Gratia A. Countryman, librarian, Minneapolis public library, gave an address on County libraries which was exceedingly helpful because practical and did much for county library interest in Iowa. After a brief discussion of the subject, the business meeting was held at which various reports were received. The report of the Membership committee placed the membership of the I. L. A. on a sliding scale.

Invitations for the 1924 meeting were given for Boone and Davenport. The

matter was referred to the Executive committee.

The following officers were elected: President, Callie Wieder, librarian, Marshalltown; first vice-president, R. S. Galer, trustee, Mt. Pleasant; second vice-president, Isabella Hopper, librarian, Ft. Dodge; secretary, Elizabeth Walpole, librarian, Storm Lake; treasurer, Gertrude I. Sheridan, librarian, Algona; member Certification board, Grace D. Rose, librarian, Des Moines.

**Montana**—The fifteenth annual meeting of the Montana State library association convened at Bozeman, October 1, 2 and 3, with the president, Mrs. Laura Zook of Miles City, presiding.

Each librarian responded at roll call with a report of the year's best work in her library, these reports showing an increase in interest and activity during the past year. Miss Fernald and others reported success in recruiting for library work. Miss Forrest gave a short report of the A. L. A. convention.

The second session was a joint meeting with the Woman's club of Bozeman, at the special request of the club, for the purpose of discussing the ways and means of securing a county library, this being the goal of the Women's clubs of Gallatin County. Miss Buckhous of Montana state university at Missoula showed how this may be done and also the advantages to be obtained from both utilitarian and economic standpoints. Miss Ruth Worden of the Missoula County free library then told how a county library works, showing its use in rural communities and lumber camps. A pleasing feature of her talk was a report of the appreciation of those living in remote country districts of the privilege of borrowing books. A patron living in the extreme limits of the county gets the same service and consideration as the one living next door.

Dean Hamilton of the Montana state college addressed the delegates on Historic spots around Bozeman. So far as is known Lewis and Clark, led by the Indian girl, Sacajawea, were the

first white men to enter the Gallatin valley. They were followed by John Bozeman who selected the present site of the city of Bozeman, Jim Bridger, Townsend and other explorers. Dean Hamilton particularly emphasized the duty of all librarians securing and preserving all facts of historical interest in their communities. "The history of Montana," he said, "is as important as that of Massachusetts, Virginia or California."

The book symposium led by Miss Powell of the Missoula public library who spoke on reference books, included What the library has to offer the business man by Florence Lewis of Livingston, Reliable book reviews by Elizabeth Forrest of Montana state college, Best books of the year by Josephine Haley of Helena, and a description of the new State university library at Missoula by Gertrude Buckhous. Each topic received a fair share of animated discussion.

The round-table conducted by Mrs. H. E. Garber, Jr., of Billings included the following topics: Exhibits and museums by Mrs. Garber; Inventory by Clara M. Main of Lewistown; Short cuts and simplified routine by Mrs. Lillian Free of Dillon, and Free material by Louise M. Fernald of Great Falls.

The hospitality of Bozeman was shown by a luncheon given by the Bozeman woman's club, a tea at Hamilton hall with Mrs. Una B. Herrick, dean of women at Montana state college, as hostess, luncheon by the Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis club, and a drive to Bridger Canyon with luncheon at Three Bears inn by members of the library board and the Bozeman librarians, Miss Geneva Cook and Miss Lena Michel.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Elizabeth Powell, Missoula, president; Geneva Cook, Bozeman, vice-president; Clara M. Main, Lewistown, secretary; J. M. Benson, Harve, treasurer.

CLARA M. MAIN  
Secretary



**New Hampshire**—The New Hampshire library association held a very successful meeting at Hampton Beach, September 12-14.

The association was welcomed by Mrs Howard G. Lane, trustee of the Lane memorial library, Hampton. Willard P. Lewis, librarian, University of New Hampshire, chose as the title of his presidential address, "Lighthouses." John Farrar, editor of the *Bookman*, gave an interesting address on The Younger generation in literature. He admits that there are many writers today who base their work on a philosophy of freedom and social standards quite different from those to which we are accustomed but the hopeful part of it, as he sees it, is that these writers are not the young people. Those under twenty-five, he claims, are back to normal again, writing novels which tend toward the romantic. It is the grandmother flappers who are most annoying. The rest of Mr Farrar's talk was made up of anecdotes about authors of the present day, many of whom he knows personally.

A interesting session was that under the title, The Library herald, conducted by Major J. F. Brennan, Peterborough, the aim of which was to suggest some of the best new books. Major Brennan opened the session with a short history of library work in the state, introducing the members of his staff who presented books on the following subjects:

Sporting editor, Elsie Gaskin—Books of outdoor life and travel; editor of Children's page, Emma L. Riggs—Children's books; Personals, Helen G. Cushing—Books of biography; Editorial on the Prison library, Rev Whitman S. Bassett; Fiction supplement, Mildred J. Peaslee—Works of fiction; Magazine section, Mary E. Holland—Some of the more unusual periodicals; News and notes of interest to women, Martha E. Cutler—Books of particular interest to women; The Literary lobby, Mrs Leona E. Savithes—Poems, plays, essays.

The association was the guest of Portsmouth and Newburyport in an automobile trip to those cities where many places of interest were visited. At a shore dinner, the winners of awards for exceptional work done in the smaller libraries of the state were announced.

The winners were Isabelle H. Fitz, Chester, and Martha E. Cutler, Peterborough, who attended the meeting as guests of the association. Honorable mention was given Clara Garvin, Sanbornville, and Mrs Winifred M. Gunnison, Jaffrey.

Following the dinner, Mrs May L. Becker of the New York *Evening Post* spoke on The New books—What we want and what we are getting. Ralph D. Paine gave a most interesting recital in his Story of a literary forgery. There appeared in 1913 a book entitled *Memoirs of Li Hung Chang*, edited by William Francis Mannix. This purports to be selections from the writings of Li Hung Chang, translated into English from the Chinese. The story of the forgery as given by Mr Paine was the tale of a criminal who, shut up in jail in Honolulu for forgery, wove these memoirs out of his imagination, so cleverly, in fact, that some of the wisest of Chinese authorities were unable to detect their inauthenticity. Mr Paine told of the life story of Mr Mannix whom he met while on an expedition to Cuba in 1896, and with whose dark career he has been familiar, and of how step by step these writings were traced to him as author.

An "experience" round-table was conducted by Grace Blanchard of Concord, at which special subjects were discussed—Our reading contest for children, Mrs M. B. Macomber; The Library in the school, Susan James, and the Seasons in the library, Hannah G. Fernald.

The following officers were elected: President, Willard P. Lewis, Durham; first vice-president, Alice T. Rowe, Nashua; second vice-president, Grace E. Kingsland, Hanover; secretary, Winifred Tuttle, Manchester; treasurer, Alice M. Pray, Concord.

**New York**—At a meeting of the New York library club, October 17, addresses on Europe in 1923 as seen by librarians was the topic: Impressions of European libraries, E. F. Stevens; Six months in Europe, Miss Theresa Hitchler; The Library Good-Will delegate in France, Miss Mollie V. Leavitt.

This was a joint meeting of the New York library club and the staff associations of the public libraries of New York, Brooklyn and Queensborough. A very pleasant reception was held in the Lenox gallery at the close of the meeting, the presidents of the various organizations receiving.

**North Dakota**—The annual meeting of the North Dakota library association was held at Fargo, September 25-27. Mary E. Downey, president of the association and also executive of the State library commission, reported that the reorganization of the library was completed and that there would be more time for field work the coming year. The commission will have as many libraries visited as possible. Other things to work for are the passage of the county library bill and the securing of tax support for 45 small libraries now supported by women's clubs.

The first morning was given over to reports of various kinds.

At the afternoon session, A. D. Keator made a plea for membership in the A. L. A. and the state organization, stressing the desirability of belonging to both organizations.

The Personal side of librarianship was presented by various speakers. State superintendent of schools Minnie Nielson urged librarians to join in the campaign to wipe out illiteracy in North Dakota by 1925, suggesting the slogan, "Each one teach one." She asked librarians to have plenty of copies of the books on the reading circle lists on the shelves and as many books as possible of simple reading suitable for adults.

Marguerite Beard of the Fargo music club urged librarians to develop music reference collections and offered assistance in selection of music books to any one who desired it.

Harriet Pearson, North Dakota agricultural college, gave a very entertaining paper on Hobbies for librarians. An amusing exercise followed in which all present were asked to give

their special hobbies. Some of interest were Mr Keator's potato growing and astronomy; Miss Clara Baldwin's keeping-house and making apple dump-lings; Miss Downey's collecting book plates and writing letters. Quite a number said they had no hobby.

The evening meeting was held at the Little Country theatre of the Agricultural college, President John Lee Coulter presiding. Miss Downey gave an address on Character and career as determined by reading. She mentioned the influence of books on the lives of great men—Franklin, Roosevelt and Lincoln—and told many interesting anecdotes showing the effect of reading on various kinds of individuals. Two types of readers were discussed, the reader of few books and the reader of many. She presented an argument sustaining the idea that the thorough knowledge of one great author and of the Bible gives literary culture. Great reform movements are imbedded in reading. Miss Downey said that the library was one side of the quadrangle which has the greatest influence on human life and character—the home, the school, the church and the library.

Prof Alfred Arvold of the Agricultural college discussed What the library can do for community drama. He gave a definition and short history of drama and presented in a very inspiring way the wonderful results that may be accomplished in a community, especially in rural districts and small towns, by the use of the drama. He urged that librarians have on the shelves of the library copies of plays suitable for producing in these communities, with books discussing play producing, lighting, etc.

Joseph A. Kitchen of the State board of administration discussed what the North Dakota library association could do in coöperation with the libraries of state schools and institutions.

In a talk on Wednesday morning, A. D. Keator discussed Sources of reference material available to the library, recommending that libraries se-

cure blue books of all the states, all North Dakota publications possible, state maps and municipal documents. He gave lists of material obtainable free of charge.

An interesting session of the School libraries section was led by Lillian Cook, librarian, State Normal school library, Minot. Subjects discussed were instruction in the use of the library, reserve books and developing readers among students.

The Public libraries section, led by Bessie Baldwin, librarian, James memorial library, Williston, discussed cheap editions that are worthwhile, methods of registration and re-registration, labor savers and public documents.

The advisability of having a Roosevelt publicity week in October was discussed and it was voted that such a movement be undertaken. Other topics discussed at the session were What North Dakota people read and study, Best books of the year, Book drives and Advertising.

The Lincoln cabin at the Agricultural college had just been completed and the association had the honor of dedicating it.

A supper followed at which a number of brilliant toasts were offered.

Resolutions adopted expressed appreciation to the many who had contributed to the success of the meeting; that the association go on record as favoring the development of musical reference libraries as recommended by the National music association; determination to continue work in support of the county library movement.

The following officers were elected: President, Inga Rynning; vice-president, Mrs Jessie C. Searing; secretary-treasurer, Christian R. Dick; new member of Executive board, Catherine McSherry.

**Philadelphia**—The opening meeting of the season of the Special Libraries council of Philadelphia and vicinity was held on Friday, October 5, at the University of Pennsylvania.

Miss Deborah Morris, chairman, outlined the work of the council for the coming year, emphasizing particularly the continuation and perfection of the local periodical index, which already has been much used; an increased membership; and a concerted effort to assist in the closest coöperation among library associations. A reception followed.

**Utah**—The Utah library association held its tenth annual convention at the Free public library, Salt Lake City, October 6, with Miss Julia T. Lynch, head cataloger of the Public library of Salt Lake, presiding. The main topic for discussion was county libraries. This subject was presented in an address by Milton J. Ferguson, state librarian of California, who gave a very interesting account of the development of the county library movement in his state.

Mr Ferguson urged that county commissioners be empowered to create county libraries and levy taxes for their maintenance. He declared that librarians for these and all other libraries should be chosen because of their ability to fill the positions and not because of a need of employment or their personal connections. Librarians should be given power to choose their own staffs, to buy books and, in general, manage the affairs of the library. Libraries should be operated independent of all other institutions and neither superintendents of schools nor any other officer elected or appointed for a different purpose should be given supervision over libraries.

A very animated discussion of the value of a library organizer brought out an almost unanimous opinion in favor of the re-appointment of such an officer to assist in the county library movement. It was voted that the librarians of Utah should seek to show their communities the need of having the legislature appropriate funds for paying the salary of a library organizer. This position was dropped more than two years ago when the legislature failed to appropriate the necessary

money for carrying on organization activities.

Rev J. E. Carver, Ogden, for many years a trustee of the Public library of that city, addressed the convention on The Library and the trustee. He said that the librarian's chief duty is not to impress the public with the need of libraries but to impress the board of trustees with the value of the work he is doing, for trustees can easily raise money for the support of the library if satisfied of its importance. People generally are not educated to the true value of books. In closing Rev Carver stated that an under nourished mind proves a bed for the seeds of bolshevism and anarchy.

The value of story telling in the library as a means of interesting children in good reading was discussed by Angela Ferris, in charge of the children's department of the Salt Lake library.

About 35 librarians from outside the city were entertained at a luncheon at the Hotel Utah during which a musical program was rendered by eminent Salt Lake musicians.

At a roll call of librarians in the afternoon, each responded with a brief account of the year's activities in his institution.

The following officers were elected: President, Evelyn Bean, librarian, Public library, Provo; first vice-president, Marion Jones, librarian, University of Utah training school; second vice-president, Louisa Rolland, librarian, Springville; Minnie I. Margetts, secretary and treasurer; members at large of the board of directors, Elva Littlefield, assistant librarian, Ogden public library, and Effie Marsden, librarian, Tooele public library.

**Vermont**—The annual meeting of the Vermont library association was held at Vergennes, October 2-4.

From the opening evening with its "get-together" supper and reception at which Judge Fish delighted his audience with readings from one of the best loved Vermont authors, Rowland Robinson, to

the round-table discussions just before adjournment, the program was full to the brim of good things.

The Baxter Memorial library, where the meetings were held, is one of the most attractive in the state and the people of Vergennes left nothing which would contribute to the comfort and pleasure of their guests undone.

After the business meeting on Wednesday morning, reports of district meetings which have been held throughout the year were read. Prof Arthur W Peach of Norwich university, an enthusiastic Vermonter and poet, made a strong appeal for greater loyalty on the part of Vermonters to their own literature and more encouragement to those authors within the borders of the state who are endeavoring to give the world something of literary value.

The afternoon was devoted to a ride to Mount Philo and along the shore of Lake Champlain, with a visit to the State industrial school. The evening brought Dallas Lore Sharp motoring from Maine to give his lecture on The Magical chance in his usual delightful vein.

The Thursday morning session opened with a talk on The Librarian's measuring rod by Miss Anna Mower of Morrisville. She spoke on systematizing library activities according to business standards, applying a measuring rod which should determine the kind of service to the community—making accurate surveys, adopting the budget system, measuring the quality of the books on the shelves, and utilizing the forces that are sometimes thought to work against the library (automobiles, movies, radio) by cooperating with them. Her theme was taken from the vision of Ezekiel, where the measuring rod was applied to the temple, north, east, south, and west, to assure perfect symmetry that it might be filled with the spirit of God. Such a rod might well be used by the librarian who desires a symmetrical library filled with the spirit of service.

Rev Arthur W. Hewitt, chairman of the State board of education, closed the program with a talk on Fun I have had with books, which proved him a lover

and collector of books and a humorist, as well as an educator and minister. He spoke of his early love for an A B C book, printed on linen, Munroe's primer, Greenleaf's arithmetic and Foster's Story of the Bible, followed by a period of backsliding to Sylvanus Cobb and Bertha Clay, "that weepiest sister," over whose stories he "read and sighed and thrilled" until Ivanhoe supplanted them on his library shelves. Referring to his strong personal prejudices in books, he rejoiced that he had come to a point where he could without shame say of a popular author "Praise the Lord I won't read him." The description of his three methods for acquiring books: 1 Painful purchase, 2 Providential contagination, 3 Making the critters, afforded much amusement.

The following officers were elected:

President, Mrs E. B. Chatterton, librarian, Vergennes; vice-president, Florence Pratt, Brattleboro; secretary and treasurer, Iva M. Young, Bellows Falls.

IVA M. YOUNG  
Secretary

#### Coming meetings

The eleventh annual conference of Eastern college librarians will be held at Columbia university, Saturday, December 1.

It is announced through the *Journal of the National Education Association* that the Department of superintendents will meet in Chicago, February 24-28, 1924.

Certain highly reputable literary authorities advance the hypothesis that in writing "The Sisters", Lord Tennyson was the original exponent of the genus "vamp", masculine and feminine. Credence is also given to the theory that when he said "The wind is howling in turret and tree", the great poet was thinking of Marseilles and the mistral. What ever the decision of the higher critics, certain it is, that the bard's indictment of the behavior of the wind is a true bill. The mistral has not reformed or repented since his day. It not only blows and howls, but also roars, rages, and raves, "in turret and tree". When you hear the mistral, solace yourself by reading "The Raven" or "The fall of the house of Usher"—*Vistas*.

#### Interesting Things in Print

The *Bulletin* of the New York library club for October contains a very interesting report, Two decades of school libraries, by C. B. Leland, superintendent of libraries, Board of education, New York.

A large chart showing the internal drive system of the automobile will be sent on request, free of charge, to any library desiring it. Address requests to the American Gear Company, 1700 Michigan Avenue, Chicago.

The October number of the *Wilson Bulletin* is largely devoted to lists having reference to Children's Book Week. Among these are reading lists of books for the use of high-school libraries and reading lists on loan work.

A new and valuable department in the *Book Bulletin* of the Chicago public library is presented under the title, *Monthly Calendar of Exhibits, Lectures and Recitals*. This includes not only such events in the Chicago public library but at various points thruout the city, covering important occasions of the season.

*Kodakery* is a monthly periodical "for amateur photographers" issued by the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y. The publication must undoubtedly be of value and interest to those who are interested in photography. The illustrations alone—of special photographs made on various occasions, in beautiful settings—are worth the subscription price of 60 cents a year.

A revised and enlarged edition of Catalog of literature for advisers of young women and girls, by Anna Eloise Pierce, has been issued by the H. W. Wilson Company. The new edition contains 64 more pages than the original edition and sells for \$1.25. There are 2500 selected references to books and periodical articles, giving prices, publishers, sources and annotations.

The Fundamentals of photography, of which C. E. K. Mees is author, is the title of a volume recently issued



by the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, N. Y.

The object of the book is to provide an elementary account of the scientific side of photography so that by giving technical attention to manipulation of materials the best results can be obtained. Lenses, exposure, printing, finishing, reproduction are some of the topics treated.

The Syllabus of half-hour talks to children offered by the Municipal libraries, Bristol, England, shows an interesting selection of books on a valuable list of subjects: Parliaments, past and present; Bath and its history; Summer schools at Salzburg, Lugano and Prague; William Morris; Greek myths; Rome; Among the planets; The boyhood of Dickens; Britain under the Romans; Strange friendships in nature; Charles Lamb, and Some poems of today. Under each subject is given a list of ten books, with call numbers.

The H. R. Huntting Company, Springfield, Mass., has issued a pamphlet (Sept. '23), *Books for high-school libraries*, a buying list for small schools, compiled by Martha Wilson, librarian, Lincoln library, Springfield, Ill. This pamphlet is an abridgment of the *Bureau of Education Bulletin*, 1917, No. 41, *Library books for high-schools*. Obligation is acknowledged to other similar lists. Prices and publishers of the books are given. They are offered in library binding at an average cost of 35 cents beyond publishers' prices, according to the size of the book and expense involved.

It is announced that *Ex-Libris*, the new monthly magazine published by the American library in Paris, will contain every other month a supplement to the selected list of French books of 1922 published in the A. L. A. *Booklist* for July. These supplementary lists will describe about 100 books a year. The list published annually in the *Booklist* will be limited to about 50 books. Libraries desiring to receive *Ex-Libris* regularly should send the subscription price, 25 francs a year (outside of France).

Librarians of all classes will be glad to learn that the International Council of Religious Education has just gotten out a most comprehensive handbook, *The International Yearbook of Religious Education*, in response to the growing demand for such a publication. This volume is absolutely non-sectarian and presents the latest and most approved plans, projects, curricula and other information on all forms of Church schools, including Sunday, vacation, week-day and teacher training schools, furnished by the different church authorities. Reports from every state and denomination are included, as are the latest statistics on spiritual illiteracy, etc.

Every library can render a patriotic service in stimulating interest and answering the great need for this information. One of the most valuable portions of the *Yearbook* is the splendid annotated bibliography, organized to solve any problem of individual need and desire in the detailed study of the various phases of this subject.

The London school of economics and political science of the University of London has under consideration the preparation and publication of a complete subject catalog of all the treatises and pamphlets in the library of the school. Excluding official publications, the number of works indexed would amount to not fewer than 250,000, in various languages. The entries would be arranged in alphabetic order with adequate cross-references. The cost of such a work would make it impossible to attempt it unless an adequate number of subscribers would be assured. Those having the project in mind are confident that such a catalog would be indispensable in any library which includes economic theory and history, commerce, finance, transport and political science, or any of these subjects within its province.

It is contemplated that the subscription price should be fixed at about £4 4s. a copy if not less than 2000 subscribers could be obtained.

The proposition is not sufficiently formulated to invite definite subscrip-

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tions but those in charge of it would be glad to know as soon as possible the names of probable subscribers as the determination to proceed with the scheme will depend on the response which is made. Those who would be interested are asked to communicate with W. H. Beveridge, director, London school of economics and political science, Houghton Street, Aldwych, London, W. C. 2.

Changes in titles of books for use in the movies are amusing. Frances Hodgson Burnett's *That lass o' Lowries* becomes *The Flame of life*; *The Admirable Crichton*, Male and female; Ralph Connor's *The Foreigner*, *God's crucible*; Joseph C. Lincoln's *Rise of Roscoe Paine*, *No trespassing*; Anna Katherine Green's *The Mayor's wife*, *Her husband's wife*. A few books, such as *Oliver Twist*, *The Covered wagon*, *Penrod* and *Sam*, *St. Elmo*, *Rebecca of Sunnybrook farm* and *Robin Hood* retain the original titles given by their authors.

### How to Listen to Music

**Dickinson.** Education of a music lover.  
**Goepp.** Symphonies and their meaning.  
**Henderson.** What is good music?  
**Kobbé.** How to appreciate music.  
**Krehbiel.** How to listen to music.  
**Mason.** Orchestral instruments and what they do.  
**Schauffler.** The musical amateur.  
**Scholes.** Listener's guide to music.  
**Seymour.** What music can do for you.  
**Upton.** Standard concert guide.

—*Public Library Bulletin*  
Worcester, Mass.

### Big Business

Houghton Mifflin Company a few years ago sold the translation rights of a very popular autobiography to a German publishing house. They were recently gratified to receive a check running into many thousands of marks which, upon consulting their financial expert, they found would net them the impressive sum of ½ cent. This, per contract, should be divided with the author.

### Library Schools

#### Drexel institute

The school year opened Monday, September 24. The class of 1924 registers 24 students on full time, one student assistant, and one student taking the pre-library course. The following states are represented: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa, Utah, New Jersey, New York, and Delaware. Nineteen of the students have had library experience and eight are graduates of accredited colleges.

The following list is of students who graduated in 1923 and the positions which they hold:

Louise R. Amsden, librarian, State normal school, Glassboro, N. J.

Suzanne Gates, first assistant, Public library, New Britain, Conn.

Jorace J. Grubb, assistant, reference department, Public library, Chicago, Ill.

Marion H. Hall, reviser, School of library science, Drexel institute.

Edith B. Lewis, assistant, catalog department, University of Pennsylvania library, Philadelphia.

Ruth K. Roehrig, assistant, Public library, Pottsville, Pa.

Helen Squires, assistant, Osterhout public library, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Florence M. Street, librarian, Pennsylvania hospital, Philadelphia.

Eleanor Wells, assistant librarian, Drexel Institute library.

Katharine Kurtz and Marie A. Simon are temporary assistants during the re-organization of the Drexel library.

ANNE W. HOWLAND

Director

#### University of Illinois

The library school began work, September 19.

Two changes are reported in personnel, the resignation of John S. Cleavinger and the appointment of Margaret A. Gramesly to the position left vacant by Mr Cleavinger; also the resignation of Emma Mae Shoup and the appointment of Lois P. Holladay in her place.

The junior class is slightly fewer in numbers than was the case last year, numbering 22 on October 1, while the senior class is slightly increased with 17 registered, making a total of 39 taking all or part-time work in the school.

The members of the senior class have elected Alma Felter as class chairman

and the junior class has chosen Margaret Henkel. The senior class entertained the faculty and the juniors shortly after the opening of the semester.

The Library club has organized with the following officers:

Elizabeth Bryan, president; Phyllis Crawford, secretary; Laura Peck, treasurer.

The opening meeting of the club was held, October 13, in the Woman's building. About 50 were present. The meeting was an informal gathering for the purpose of becoming acquainted with the new people.

The homes of Stella Bennett, '03, and Margaret Kingsbury Foot, '09-12, were totally destroyed in the recent Berkeley fire. Other former students, members of the University of California staff, so far as has been learned, were not seriously inconvenienced by the fire.

Announcements have been received of the marriage on Saturday, September 19, in New York City, of Mildred Noé Johnson, '15-16, to Barnabas Bryan, Jr. At home at 8 East 48th Street, New York City.

Mrs Emma Rhoads Nickoley, librarian of the American university of Beirut, Syria, is again in residence and registered for work in the library school and attached to the catalog department. Mr and Mrs Nickoley are spending a sabbatical year at the University of Illinois.

#### List of positions filled by juniors and seniors of last year

Mrs E. H. McLellan, secretary, Free Library Service bureau, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Ella Hodges, assistant, Indianapolis public library.

Helen G. More, cataloger, Oregon state library, Salem.

Lois Shortess, librarian, Southwestern Louisiana institute, Lafayette, La.

Ruth McCaughtry, B. L. S. '23, recovering from illness at her home in Carthage, Missouri.

Edna E. Gillogly, librarian, High-school, Lancaster, Wisconsin.

Dorothy Brooks, assistant, Kansas State Agricultural college, Manhattan.

Luella Cory, B. L. S. '23, in charge of loan desk, Kansas State Agricultural college, Manhattan.

Jessie A. Jones, assistant librarian, Eastern Indiana State teachers college, Muncie.

Lois Holladay, reviser, University of Illinois library school.

Gertrude Wulfekoetter, B. L. S. '23, general assistant, University of Illinois library. Agnes Smalley, librarian, Classics seminar, University of Illinois library.

Isabel H. Smith, assistant, Detroit public library.

Alice Strong, senior assistant, Detroit public library.

Jessie A. Reid, B. L. S. '23, cataloger, Public library, Saginaw, Michigan.

FRANCES SIMPSON

Assistant-director

#### Los Angeles

The Los Angeles library school is taxed to its capacity with a class of 32 students. British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and the middle west are represented in the entering class, but the majority of the students come from southern California.

Of those in the class, 20 have had from one to five years of library experience; two are training class graduates; 14 are college graduates and four are normal school graduates. The others have had two years or more of college work or its equivalent and all have had at least two weeks of preliminary summer practice in an approved library.

An extensive course in library work with children will be given. Jasmine Britton, librarian of the City school library, will direct the course in children's literature which will be supplemented by lectures and supervised practice in children's rooms under the direction of Gladys S. Case. Other elective courses required of those preparing for children's work will deal with child psychology and work with elementary schools.

Elective courses in bibliographical cataloging (given by Philip S. Goulding of the Huntington library) and high school libraries will be offered in the spring.

The junior course for clerical assistants was given for the seventh time during the summer. This is a two months' course which prepares for the simpler phases of library work. Most of the students who complete the course go immediately into junior positions in the Los Angeles public library.

Cards have been received announcing the marriage of the following graduates of the school.

Lucy K. West, '10, to D. L. Swinnerton of Los Angeles.

Doris Crawford, '15, to Howard N. Graham of Boise, Idaho.

Ione Morrison, '15, to Charles Rider of Los Angeles.

Elizabeth S. Walker, '16, to Allan Hunter of Riverside.

Harriet L. Mather, '21, to Carl C. Taylor of Whittier.

Christine Watson, '21, to James D. Douglas of Los Angeles.

MARION HORTON  
Principal

#### New York public library

The school year opened on Monday, September 17, the junior class numbering 36 students. The new group this year is an exceptionally cosmopolitan one for, in addition to drawing its members from a widespread territory in the United States, it includes representatives from Canada, Chile, Ecuador, France, Holland, Mexico, Norway and Russia. Of the students from within the United States eight are from New York, seven from Pennsylvania, two each from Ohio and Michigan, and one each from Connecticut, California, North Carolina, Nebraska, Iowa, New Jersey, Vermont, Idaho and Massachusetts.

The new Fordham branch of the New York public library was thrown open to the staff of the library on the afternoon of September 21, and a trip to inspect it was made the first of the class visits for the year. This was virtually an opportunity to see a model library, for the building is splendidly equipped and the collection had been very carefully chosen and was for the moment undisturbed. After an hour at the branch the students visited the Poe cottage nearby. Another trip of special interest made recently was that to a newly opened branch of the East Orange (N. J.) public library, to house which a store has been adapted and refitted for library purposes.

Open courses will again be offered this year, beginning February 4, 1924.

ERNEST J. REECE  
Principal

#### New York state library

Fifty-seven students have enrolled in the regular two-year course and 15 in the course for teacher-librarians, conducted jointly with the New York State college for teachers. This is the largest attendance in the school's history. Of the 57 regular students, 12 are men, 18 are seniors, 32 are juniors, and 7 are special or part-time students. Two of the seniors entered on certificates from Pratt institute and the University of Washington library schools.

Canada, 16 states, and Norway are represented. New York state leads with 19 students and Norway follows with 5. There are 52 colleges and universities represented by bachelor's degrees. Nine students have done graduate work, 2 of whom hold master's degrees. All but 6 of the junior class have had library experience.

An attempt has been made this year to arrange the curriculum on the semester plan. The "semester hour" of the standard colleges and universities has been adopted as the unit of credit. Those interested to see how the courses have been grouped will find the outline in the school's *Circular of Information* for the current year.

The course on special libraries, a revival in part of the course on business libraries, which was discontinued during the war, was introduced by Miss Rebecca B. Rankin, librarian of the Municipal reference library of New York City, October 2-3. Miss Rankin gave two very inspiring talks on special library work in general and on the Municipal reference library in particular.

Miss Zaidee Brown, who is again in charge of the course in loan work, gave three lectures, October 4-5, preliminary to the practice work in the local libraries. She will return later to complete this course and to begin the junior course on administration.

Appointments from the classes of 1923 and 1924 not previously reported are:

Louina Van Norman, '23, cataloger, Southern branch of the University of California.

Edmund A. Freeman, '24, temporary cataloger, Bureau of Railway Economics, Washington, D. C.

Bessie M. Landfear, '24, children's librarian, Webster branch, New York public library.

Marion W. Redway, '24, assistant, library of the Banker's Trust Company, New York City.

Hallie I. Shearer, '24, assistant, U. S. Department of Agriculture library, Washington, D. C.

S. Y. Li, '23, is doing graduate work in educational sociology at Columbia university.

T. L. Yuan, '23, will spend the winter in London, Eng., taking special courses, principally in bibliography, at King's college.

The following marriages have been reported:

Ellyn C. Bromell, '15, and Clifton M. Beaty, at Manila, P. I., Aug. 9, 1923.

Mignon H. Eliot, '24, and Theodore L. Eliot, at Portland, Ore., Aug. 26, 1923. Mr and Mrs Eliot are living at 5724 Dorchester Ave., Chicago, Ill.

The officers of the Alumni association for the current year, elected at the annual meeting held at Hot Springs, Ark., on April 26, are: President, William F. Yust, '01; first vice-president, Clarence E. Sherman, '13; second vice-president, Anne M. Mulheron, '17; secretary-treasurer, Harriet R. Peck, '04; executive board, Carl L. Cannon, '17, Elva L. Bascom, '01, Harriet C. Long, '10; advisory board, Henry N. Sanborn, '13, Paul N. Rice, '12, Milton J. Ferguson, '03.

EDNA M. SANDERSON  
Vice-director

#### Pratt institute

Out of 60 applicants a class of 27 was admitted, two more than the regular maximum which was exceeded to include two European students, a Belgian who comes on a scholarship from the Committee on relief for Belgium, and a French woman sent by the Committee on Devastated France. Two British subjects, Scotch and English, are also in the class, so the foreign flavor will be quite pronounced. The geographical range of the American students is country-wide, including three each from New England, New York, New Jersey, and south of the Mason-Dixon line; four from Pennsyl-

vania, five from the middle west, and one from the coast.

Educationally the class contains 11 graduates of American colleges, and three who have studied at foreign institutions of collegiate rank, while only four have not gone beyond the high-school, and all of these have had from two to thirteen years of library experience. Wellesley, Vassar, Mt. Holyoke, Dickinson, Syracuse, Antioch, Guilford, Hamline, the Universities of South Carolina and Iowa are represented by graduates, and some of the better private schools, as St. Timothy, Catonsville, Maryland, the Capen school, Northampton, Bradford academy, are also represented.

Twenty-three of the students have had some library experience, many of them have come from the staffs of the larger public libraries, the Utica, Newark, Indianapolis, Chicago, Kansas City, and Portland; an equal number have come from smaller public libraries where they have had all-around experience, and several have been in university libraries. Seven have also taught, and four have had business experience. The average age is 28.8 and the median 28—a mature class but one in which there are no extremes at either end.

Twelve have visited foreign countries and nine have crossed our own continent, while practically everyone has travelled beyond their own section of the country. Linguistically their equipment is good. We require two foreign modern languages for admission: 25 have studied French, 21 German, 10 Spanish, Italian and Flemish one each known by one person, 19 have some Latin, and 2 have studied Greek.

At present writing, the prospects seem good for an interesting year and an output at the end of it that will do credit to the school.

Announcements have been received of the following marriages:

Ella R. Bradley, '18, to Paul Imbrie Johnston, June 26.

Grace A. Child, '97, to James Newton Bevan, May 7.

Mary Aline Dawson, '10, to Wilford J. Winninghoff, July 21.

Rosamond McIntosh, '14, to William F. Mingst, June 17.



Susan Howland Sherman, '22, to Gilbert H. Doane, June 23.

JOSEPHINE ADAMS RATHBONE  
Vice-director

#### St. Louis

The St. Louis library school opened on September 20 with 24 students, its full capacity. One applicant was dropped at the end of her preliminary practice work and another was substituted, so that the quota is still full.

The following states are represented in the class: Connecticut, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Illinois, Wisconsin and Missouri; and one student comes from Holland.

ARTHUR E. BOSTWICK  
Director

#### Simmons college

Although at Simmons college students who enter for the four-year course are said to have "registered in the Library school program," they do not have any courses in technical library science until their junior year. Then their courses are chiefly in the use of reference books and sources, and on the reference department of library work.

The fourth year is what practically corresponds to the usual "library school" of other institutions. Consequently, the only point of current professional interest in our registration is that it included 55 students who expected to complete the program next June. They are grouped as follows:

Thirty-two seniors of the Simmons college four-year course, 15 graduates of other colleges, four special students admitted to the one-year program on account of previous experience, four students transferring from academic colleges with at least three years of academic credit.

This is a record breaking number and taxes our capacity to its limit, exceeding by one-third the 1923 class, itself one of the largest we have ever had.

The scholarship offered by the college to a French librarian is held by Mlle Denise Montel, *Bibliothécaire de l'Institut Colonial de Marseille*.

The first visits of the year were to the Brookline and Somerville public libraries. The students had a chance at the latter library to admire a library building which has a staff room where the serving of tea is a recognized institution.

JUNE RICHARDSON DONNELLY  
Director

#### Syracuse university

The library school opened on September 20 with a registration of 65, of which 32 were new students, a gratifying increase over last year's registration.

Miss Edna S. Stewart of the faculty of the school gave an appreciation of the work of Arthur Machen before the Friends of Reading at the Syracuse public library on October 9. Miss Stewart also spoke in Fulton, N. Y., at a meeting held there in library interests on October 16.

The seniors entertained the juniors and faculty at an outdoor supper on Mount Olympus on October 19.

This year an innovation was made in the manner of introducing the use of the library to the classes in English. Miss Robbins of the Library School faculty gave a lecture to the instructors in Freshman English. They in turn passed this on to their divisions. A set of six questions was given to each student, involving the use of the material included in the lecture.

Miss Catharine Rogers of the class of 1922 has accepted a position in the Public library at Oswego N. Y.

ELISABETH G. THORNE  
Director

#### University of Washington

The library school opened, October 3, with a registration of 19.

Miss Sarah Virginia Lewis, superintendent of the circulation department of the Seattle public library, will take charge of the courses in book selection and children's work. She will be assisted in the teaching by Miss Agnes C. Hansen and Miss Anne E. Hall, also of the Seattle public library.

Miss Marguerite E. Putnam, head of the order department in the University of Washington library, will teach the

course in trade bibliography and order routine.

Recent appointments from the class of 1923 have been made as follows:

Elizabeth Edwards, assistant, Public library, Marshfield, Ore.

Dora Himmelsbach, assistant, Oregon Agricultural College library, Corvallis, Ore.

Rosamond McCredy, assistant, Public library, Walla Walla.

Daphne Todd, assistant, Circulation department, Public library, Tacoma.

Clemence E. Parks, assistant, Public library, Bakersfield, California.

Marie S. Alfonso, '21, has been appointed head of the cataloging department, University of Washington library.

Verna B. Grimm, '15, is director of files, American Legion, American headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Olive Kincaid, '22, has resigned her position in the Seattle public library to accept the position of assistant in the Technology department, Library association of Portland, Portland, Ore.

Florence Pettitt, '20, is librarian of the Public library, Bremerton.

Berger Lundell, '22, is continuing his studies at the New York State library school, Albany.

Helen Remsberg, '20, is on leave of absence from the Seattle public library. She will spend a year in New York City and attend the library school of the New York public library.

Nell Unger, '18, has resigned her position as assistant library organizer in the state of New York to become librarian of the new Garfield high-school, Seattle.

Thelma Edwards, '22, has been appointed first assistant in the cataloging department, University of Washington library.

The following marriages have taken place during the month of September:

Ellen F. Howe, '15, to John A. Goodfellow, September 6. Their home will be in Wenatchee, Washington.

Corinne R. Ruttle, '17, to Malcolm C. Tracy, September 29. They will reside in Sacramento, California.

W. E. HENRY  
Director

#### Western Reserve university

The faculty of the school remains as last year except for the absence of Miss Julia M. Whittlesey during the first semester, which brings to the school Miss Edith C. Lawrence, Vassar, A. B. and a graduate of Western Reserve library school, 1909, who will give the course in classification. Miss Alma Jones of the cataloging staff, Cleveland public library, is assisting

Miss Grant for part time in cataloging revision.

More than one-half the students enrolled for 1923-24 have had college work, varying from one year to the degrees of A. B. (15), Ph. B. (1) and B. S. in education (1). The colleges and universities represented are as follows: Muskingum, Wittenberg, Wooster, Oberlin, Beloit, Western, Arkansas, Southern, Va., Smith, Mt. Holyoke, College for women of Western Reserve university, Denison, Akron municipal university, Toledo municipal university, Ohio Northern university, Indiana university, University of Nebraska, University of Washington and University of California.

#### Alumni positions

Isabelle Clark, '15, librarian, Grinnell college, Ia., on leave of absence for study at Columbia university.

Mura Craine West, '16, librarian, Collingwood branch, Cleveland public library.

Gladys R. Haskin, '17, librarian, Cleveland school of art, Cleveland.

Lorraine A. Slater, '19, assistant to supervisor of branches, Cleveland public library.

Muriel Wright, '20, assistant, Kern county free library, Bakersfield, Cal.

Inez C. Potter, '22, (Children's course) librarian, Junior high school, Cleveland.

Additional placements of the class of '23 are:

Jean Anderson, librarian, Shaker Heights high school, Cleveland.

Mary L. Hilton, branch assistant, Public library, Des Moines, Iowa.

Edna M. James, branch assistant, Public library, Los Angeles, Cal.

Ethel Walker, branch assistant, Public library, Los Angeles, Cal.

#### Recent marriages

Mura M. Craine, '16, to William R. West, Cleveland, July.

Rachel B. Forbush, '16, to Captain Jared Irwin Wood, U. S. Army, Washington, September 14.

Frieda J. Yelgerhouse, '17, to Claire Wilson Deardorff, Erie, Pa., October 6.

Ida W. Brigham, '19, to William H. Storms, Des Moines, Iowa, September 18. Residence to be in Moukden, China.

Mary F. Benjamin, '22, to George Bolton Payne, Madison, Ohio, October 2.

ALICE S. TYLER  
Director

#### University of Wisconsin

The eighteenth year of the Library school of the University of Wisconsin

opened on September 24 with a capacity registration of 38 students. There are 12 from Wisconsin, six from Michigan, five from Illinois, four from Minnesota, three from Iowa, two from Indiana, and one each from China, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, and Pennsylvania.

The academic ranking of the students shows that 10 have their bachelor's degrees, one of these having also a master's degree; three are seniors in the university taking the joint Library school course; two others are of senior grade, six have junior rank, 10 sophomore standing, while seven would rank as freshmen were they registered in university classes. Six of the class have attended summer library training courses, and there is a good background of library experience for 21 of the class.

#### School in Paris

Inquiries have been coming to the American library in Paris from many parts of Europe expressing eagerness for training in American library ideas. The recent \$50,000 grant from the American committee for Devastated France will make it possible to conduct both a summer and winter library course at the American library in Paris, beginning about June, 1924. Miss Sarah C. N. Bogle, who directed the course last summer, will have general supervision of the library school.

#### Agencies for library training

The A.L.A. library training board held a meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, October 24. The discussion gathered around classification of library training agencies, based on suggestions from the board as to modifications and additions to the scheme of tentative classification which forms the present basis of the committee's work.

A study was made of the classification of dental schools in the United States, received from A. L. Midgley, secretary of the Dental Educational Council of America. The system comprises ten main groups, each of which is divided into sections or items that are properly included in respective groups. A decimal

division covering the points to be considered makes it easy of comprehension and will doubtless offer valuable suggestions for classification of library schools.

Regret was expressed that more suggestions had not been received from those who are most interested in investigating and formulating standards for training agencies and devising a plan for accrediting such agencies. Those interested are again asked to send in communications. (*See P. L., October '23, p. 438*).

Some of the questions already raised are:

What would a doctor's degree in library science mean?

Is there a body of scholarly professional knowledge to warrant doctorate?

Can there be required for graduate work in library science a continuous study of one or more subjects in the general field of knowledge involving mastery of the field and its literature—subjects like history, economics, drama, etc.?

In the setting of library training standards how should the doors be left open to those who are not college graduates, but are exceptional persons?

The next meeting of the Board will be held immediately preceding the Midwinter meetings in Chicago.

#### Book Notes

The looked-for volume giving an intimate picture of the life of Sarah K. Bolton, the much beloved author of the "famous" books, has appeared. It is a beautiful volume and just what it purports to be, "pages from an intimate autobiography." This volume is not only interesting as an expression of the life of a lovely woman but is valuable for the side lights it throws on the period that is covered, 1850-1916, perhaps the most important years in the development of literary life in America thus far.

The lines of Mrs Bolton's literary career led into the most important periodicals and publishing houses of her day and in reading extracts from her journal relating to people and events one catches the flavor of a different and somehow more satisfying day than that furnished by the speeding-up atmosphere of the present.

Typographically the book is a thing of beauty and, therefore, a joy.

### Department of School Libraries

#### The Educational Service of the Library

William Allen White

A statement made in the interest of American Education Week

Ignorance is the menace of civilization. If America continues to grow, the minds of her people must grow. And the schools alone cannot satisfy this need for continuing the intellectual growth of American citizens. In America today, 85 per cent of the boys and girls are in school until the age of 14 years. After that, but one in five continues school until the age of 18. Then what happens? A scanty few go on to college or university and the others do not. Is this the end of their education then? Must their mental growth cease when the school doors close behind them?

There must be some way out. Some way to continue the educational growth of American citizens. And there is a way. That way is the public library. It is America's continuation school. It is the most democratic of American educational institutions. It is free to every person—color or race, nationality or creed—make no difference. It is free to every person who wishes to read, and who is willing to read. If the schools will only teach the reading habit, the library will educate the world, for the public library of America is free to every new idea, free to every fresh point of view; nothing is barred because it is new or radical or different. The public library is free from party politics; it is free from religious intolerance and prejudice. The public library provides information on all sides of every important question—so far as its funds will allow.

The citizen has his duty toward the library. First of all he should encourage larger appropriations of funds. Too many people are being turned away because there are not enough copies of certain books to supply the demand, or not enough money to buy all the books that should be on the shelves. More than half the people of

the United States do not have library facilities of any kind; the educational facilities of the library have not been recognized as they should be; with that recognition will come greater service.

Democratic as the library is, its service should be greatly extended. The librarians should be prepared to give more service, more encouragement and sympathy to their patrons, whether to help the half literate foreigner or the scholar. The public should be made to see that the library is a continuation school. While the library is useful and helpful, it has still not reached its maximum of helpfulness or usefulness and it cannot do so until the people themselves realize what it has to give them.

#### Chicago High-school Libraries

By an agreement reached after long negotiation between the Board of education and the Public library, the status of the libraries in Chicago high schools has finally been settled upon a basis that promises to be permanent and practical. Following is the proposition submitted by the Library board and definitely accepted by the School board on September 12, 1923.

The Board of directors of the Chicago public library will maintain the seven high school libraries as heretofore, supplying at its expense all books, magazines, supplies and bindings necessary to maintain them at their proper efficiency and to furnish a staff of five persons for each library, said staff to be under the supervision and control of the Board of directors of the Chicago public library.

For this service the Board of education is to pay the sum of \$4148 per month for all of the seven high school libraries for the period of ten months beginning, September 1, 1923, and the additional sum of \$1940 a month for four high school libraries for the period of two months during the summer school sessions. Any difference between the payments made by the Board of educa-

tion and the actual pay-roll paid by the Board of directors of the Chicago public library is to be adjusted quarterly.

There are 25 high schools in Chicago, of which seven are equipped with libraries hitherto conducted entirely at the expense of the Public library. Since these libraries were not "public" in the usual sense, being open only on school days and in school hours, serving only the students and faculty and adapting their whole service to the special ends of the schools alone, it was felt that there was legal doubt as to their continued maintenance as a charge upon public library funds. The arrangement now adopted leaves the administration, selection of personnel and books, and general supervision exclusively in the hands of the Public library, while the major portion of the cost of maintenance is assumed by the School board. It thus assures continued library administration and, at the same time, solves a vexed question of long standing between the two boards. The way is now opened for installing libraries in the remaining 18 high schools as rapidly as the school authorities ask for them, under the most favorable auspices.

C. B. R.

October 2, 1923.

### Challenge to the Schools

There are five challenging questions about the American public school system offered, and facts to answer them are to be found, in the *Research Bulletin*, to be had from N. E. A. headquarters in Washington.

- 1) What are the weak spots in our public school system?
- 2) What national defects result from the weak spots in our public school system?
- 3) How may our public school system be strengthened?
- 4) Can the nation afford an adequate school system?
- 5) Do good schools pay?

The library bulletin board can well be given up to attracting public attention to these important questions.

### Questions for Debate

The State library of Oregon has made a bibliography for debating teams over the state, with instructions for schools to use their public libraries in preparing bibliographies for their special districts before applying to the State library. The debating questions are of interest and are as follows:

State question: *Resolved*, That the principle of federal subsidies to the states, accompanied by federal supervision, is objectionable.

The district questions:

*Resolved*, That the United States government should cancel the allied war debts.

*Resolved*, That the direct primary election law in Oregon should be repealed.

*Resolved*, That a severance tax is a desirable feature of a system of state and local taxation.

*Resolved*, That a graduated income tax is a desirable feature of a state system of taxation.

*Resolved*, That the percentage feature of the present immigration law should be repealed.

*Resolved*, That the cabinet system of state government should be adopted in Oregon.

*Resolved*, That the United States government should own and operate the coal mines of the country.

*Resolved*, That the United States should grant the Philippines their independence within five years.

*Resolved*, That the recognition of the government of Russia by the United States is desirable.

*Resolved*, That the principle of the open shop should be adopted in American industries.

### An Appeal for Books

An interesting account is given of Kiev central library which is 21 years old and in 1920 was detached from the Kiev District Pedagogical museum. This library contains about 25,000v. and serves not only Kiev and its district but has large connections in other directions. It is interesting to know that the library contains a considerable number of manuscripts which are the work of the students of the library school and which were on display in the Parisian exhibition. There are about 300 books in English received before the war but un-



fortunately no books or magazines have been received from America since then.

The students get acquainted with American pedagogy by reading the Russian translations of American authors. Dr John Dewey is very popular and a new edition of his work which has been re-edited in Russian has been in great demand among Russian and Ukrainian pedagogues.

The library staff is made up of five members, all of them with higher education. The material condition of the personnel is very hard as it has been undecided for some time whether the institution will be kept up and how many persons will remain in its employ.

"We shall very much appreciate it if we receive bibliographical material relating to American pedagogy and literature. We shall also appreciate receiving pedagogical magazines."

#### Coöperation

An effective system of coöperation between the Public library and the public schools is being worked out in Montrose, Pa. Lists of books suitable for the grades and prepared by both teachers and library staff are posted in the front of the rooms. Pupils wanting to take a book from the library refer to the list and from it make a choice. The lists are in duplicate and one is left at the library. Another list is made by the pupils for the school room on which the names of books read and by whom read are entered. In this way the teacher learns which child is doing the greatest amount of outside reading. At the end of the month, each pupil gives a review of the books he has read and enjoyed and the reasons for enjoying them. A "library" table is in use on which several good books from the library, taken out on the teacher's card, are displayed and which may be read by the children in the school room when their assigned work has been finished. The teachers report that the scheme is a vital factor in the work of the schools.

#### Vacation Reading

The Public library, Youngstown, Ohio, reports the results of Vacation reading in various parts of the city. This is the first year that the library has offered certificates to the children for reading eight books, of which at least three were non-fiction, during the months of June, July and August. The boys and girls had to make a report on each book read. The increased interest in reading is shown by the gain in juvenile circulation during the vacation period, the number of books issued being 14,000 more in 1923 than for the corresponding period of 1922. Certificates were presented at the various library centers during the last week of August. The total number of pupils entering the contest was 755; certificates were given to 436 and 8968 books were reported on.

The Public library, Youngstown, Ohio, has sent out a bulletin outlining a course in home reading, with school credit. The material for the course is prepared from a report of the Principals and Teachers committees on the use of library service, 1922-23. The bulletin gives definite instructions relating to the project and suggestions which may be helpful. It is illustrated.

Duplicates may be obtained from the library at 10 cents each.

The recent statements of former Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Warren G. Harding and of President Coolidge—all calling attention to the urgent need of a great national spiritual reawakening—has focused attention on our American Church School program. Calvin Coolidge wrote recently, "There must be a more widespread acknowledgment of the obligation we owe to use our power and strength for the general welfare and for the redemption of humanity. The church schools furnish today the great agency by which these spiritual ideals may be made a part of the lives of the younger generation and the growth of the schools will mark the spread of these principles".

## News From the Field

## East

Susan James, Simmons '10, has been appointed instructor in library science at the Rhode Island college of education, Providence.

Elizabeth Burrage, Simmons '20, has been appointed librarian of the Boston School Committee Headquarters library.

Wil Hutchinson, Pratt '23, formerly of the Portland (Oregon) staff, has been appointed librarian of Veterans' hospital No. 89, Rutland, Mass.

Myra Cone Sweet, Pratt '20, since graduation, a member of the Pratt Library staff, has been appointed librarian of the Public library at Southington, Conn.

Margery Burditt, Pratt '21, recently head of the circulation department, Public library, Waterloo, Iowa, has become librarian of the High-school library at Stamford, Conn.

The annual report of the Free public library, Worcester, Mass., gives: total number of volumes, 269,227; borrowers, 35,459; circulation, 890,308; population, 179,754. City appropriation, \$120,800; other receipts, \$17,590; expenditures: books, \$18,942; periodicals, \$2,942; binding, \$7,109; salaries, \$86,233.

The report emphasizes the serious amount of theft and mutilation, particularly of reference books, nearly 500 more volumes than last year. Much of this loss is traceable to students. A fixed annual increase in salaries for all regular assistants was proposed. Pressing need for a new building is increasingly felt.

## Central Atlantic

Russell S. Jones, Pratt '23, goes as assistant to the Technology division of the New York public library.

Maude Mara Coffey, N. Y. P. L., '18-20, was married in New York City, September 20, 1923, to Gerard Vriens.

Mrs James B. Richards was elected librarian of the Public library, Vernon, N. Y., to succeed Dora S. Clarke.

The corner stone of the John Stewart memorial library, Wilson college, Chambersburg, Pa., was laid October 15.

Emma Williamson, Simmons '19, is now in the current periodicals division of the New York public library.

Margaret Utz, Simmons '21, was married on September 26, in Rochester, New York, to Howard William Minchin.

Minnie T. Stickney, Pratt '16, classifier at the Bridgeport public library, has been made head cataloger at White Plains, N. Y.

Mrs Olive B. Tremble, Wisconsin '23, has been appointed reference librarian in the Seward Park branch of the New York public library.

Elizabeth R. Wurts, Pratt '22, resigned from the staff of the Public library, Quincy, Mass., to become branch librarian at East Orange, N. J.

Mary Lillian Dodd, Pratt '16, formerly librarian of the Middletown township library, Navesink, N. J., has been appointed librarian at Millbrook, N. Y.

Clara Beetle, Simmons '14, has joined the staff of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh, as the first assistant in the catalog department.

Marjorie M. Spencer, Pratt '21, head of the circulation department of the Public library, Trenton, N. J., goes to East Orange as head cataloger.

Louise Keller, librarian, Independence bureau, Philadelphia, is engaged in making the index of the new edition of the Crosby-Fiske-Forster handbook of fire protection.

Mrs Jessie Scott Millener, for some time librarian of the Public library, Pocatello, Idaho, resigned, October 1, and removed to New York where she will make her home.

Mrs G. W. Childs Drexel has just given to Vincentown, New Jersey, a new library as a memorial to her mother, to be known as the Sallie Stretch Keen memorial library.

Harriet B. Gooch, Pratt '98, for some years instructor of cataloging at the

Pratt Institute library school, has been appointed assistant librarian at Haverford college, Haverford, Pa.

Dorothy M. Emmel, Pratt '19, resigned the librarianship of Millbrook, N. Y., to accept the position of junior organizer, Library Extension division, Albany, N. Y.

Virginia Harnsberger, Pratt '23, for two years previous librarian of the Normal school, Harrisonburg, Va., has been made librarian at the State normal school, Upper Montclair, N. J.

Ruth B. Drake, Wisconsin '12, has been appointed organizer of the Monroe County, New York, traveling library service, with headquarters in the Public library of Rochester, N. Y.

Mildred Noé Johnson, Ill., '15-16, and N. Y. P. L., '18-19, was married in New York City, September 29, to Baranabas Bryan, Jr. They will reside at 8 East 48th Street, New York City.

Miss Emma V. Baldwin, formerly of the Public library, Brooklyn, N. Y., and later librarian of the Public library, Roanoke, Va., has joined the staff of the Public library of the District of Columbia as director of training classes.

Louise F. Swift, N. Y. P. L., '22-23, was married at Mt. Vernon, N. Y., September 21, to Lieut Harry L. Dodson, U. S. N. Mrs Dodson will continue her work as librarian of the Mt. Vernon high-school.

Florence Adams, Pratt '13, librarian for several years at the Country day school and proprietor of Miss Adams's Book Shop, Brooklyn, has been appointed librarian of the Newton high-school, Elmhurst, L. I.

Mary Elizabeth Ferguson, N. Y. P. L., '17-18, has resigned her position as a cataloger in the library of the New Jersey Zinc Co., New York City, and expects to sail on a Clark's "round the world" tour in January.

Miss Mary P. Farr, for some time in charge of the Southwark branch of

the Free library, Philadelphia, has resigned to become librarian of the South Philadelphia high-school for girls. Miss Farr will begin her new duties November 1.

The annual report of the Public library of Binghamton, N. Y., opens with an appeal for more adequate housing for the work which is being done.

Number of volumes on the shelves, 58,019; circulation, 239,961; borrowers, 18,908; population, 75,000.

The city council of Buffalo, N. Y., has made an appropriation of \$200,000 to provide seven branch library buildings in various parts of the city. This measure is in accordance with the wishes of Walter L. Brown, librarian of Buffalo, who opposed locating these branches in school buildings.

Helen Turvill, Wisconsin '08, who has been closely identified with the Library school of the University of Wisconsin since her graduation, was married on October 11 to Dr Eben H. Toole, a seed expert of the U. S. department of agriculture. Mrs Toole's address is Decatur Heights, Bladensburg, Md.

Wilmington, Delaware, has been enjoying a public view of a fine arts collection which has been displayed in the new library building recently opened in that city. A permanent collection of the Wilmington society of fine arts has been established in the library and the occasion of the opening of this exhibit to the public was made a Howard Pyle occasion. The feature of chief interest was the collection of Pyle's work in a "memorial" room, the gift to the society of Mrs Charles Copeland, containing in a replica of their original setting, a series of mural paintings never before publicly shown and 246 subjects rendered in oils, water color, and black and white. Five paintings purchased by the society at recent exhibitions are hung in the main gallery.

The Public library of Newark, N. J., held, thru October, an exhibit of material relating to the voyages of the

Norsemen to America, the exhibit being arranged thru the courtesy of the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

The exhibit consists of books containing ancient lays of the Norsemen arranged by prominent Scandinavian artists, freizes originally designed for covers and illustrations of books, copies of ancient maps and other illustrations of the ancient glory and color of the Norsemen and their lineal descendants. An interesting item was a description of the ancient mariners' ideas which seem to point out the earth as a globe, with the expression of the fact that these maps and legends sent down thru Europe may have come under the eyes of Columbus.

#### Central

Alma M. Runge, Wisconsin '23, has been appointed a reviser in the Wisconsin library school.

Mary E. Dow, Wisconsin '11, has been elected librarian of the Public library, Two Rivers, Wis.

Clara M. Barnes, Wisconsin '19, has been elected children's librarian of the Public library, Buhl, Minn.

Mrs Lydia Kinsley Cates, Wisconsin '07, was elected librarian of the Public library, Janesville, Wis.

Evelyn Watkins, Wisconsin '23, has been appointed general assistant in the Public library, Mason City, Iowa.

Mary T. O'Connor, Wisconsin '23, has accepted a position in the Eastern Illinois state teachers' college, Charleston, Ill.

Hilda Rankin, Pratt '16, has left the library of Teacher's college, Detroit, to join the staff of the Michigan University library.

Stephanie Daland, Wisconsin '20, was married, August 14, to Frank Gregory Hall. Mr and Mrs Hall will be at home in Milton, Wis.

Helen Tukey, Wisconsin '23, began work as assistant reference librarian in the Public library, Flint, Mich., August 1.

Mrs Lucy B. Hoxie, Wisconsin '21, has accepted the position of director of grade school reference work in the Public library, Youngstown, Ohio.

Marie Henderson, Simmons '12, has joined the staff of the Public library, East Chicago, Indiana, as its cataloger and classifier.

Gertrude Morse, Simmons '20, has been appointed assistant children's librarian of the Public library of Evanston, Illinois.

Mrs Josephine Shumaker (Pittsburgh) was elected librarian of the Birchard library, Fremont, Ohio, and began her service, September, 1.

Irma M. Walker, Wisconsin '15, has accepted the position of librarian with the Western society of engineers, Monadnock building, 53 W. Jackson St., Chicago, Ill.

The Withers public library, Bloomington, Illinois, was closed on September 27, that the entire staff might attend the meeting of the Illinois library association at Peoria.

Mary R. Moran, Wisconsin '22, was married on August 23 to Mr William Kirsch, of Madison. Mrs Kirsch is continuing her work in the Wisconsin legislative reference library.

Mary A. Holmes, Wisconsin '21, has accepted the position of children's librarian of the Public library, Virginia, Minn. She has been children's librarian at Winona, Minn., since her graduation.

Julia Stockett, Wisconsin '14, has been appointed supervising librarian for state institutions of Iowa. This position, formerly filled by Miriam E. Carey who resigned to go into similar work in Minnesota, has been vacant for four years and library circles of Iowa rejoice that its work is to be resumed.

Statistics, covering ten year periods, with regard to the growth of the library of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, show that in 1875 there were 22,000 v. in the library; in 1885,



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56,000 v.; in 1895, 98,000 v.; in 1905, 194,000 v.; in 1915, 352,000 v., and in 1920 the library contained 432,000 v.

Jessie M. Woodford, in charge of public documents, Chicago public library, was married, October 27, to Walter C. Lyman of Downers Grove, Illinois. Mrs. Lyman will continue her work at the Public library for a time but expects later to devote much of her time to writing on the subject of documents which, on account of the demands of routine work, it has been impossible heretofore to do.

The Public library, Dayton, Ohio, has established library service by means of a book wagon as an adjunct to its work in reaching communities that are not served by any branch library on account of distance. The wagon will carry about 600 volumes and more than 100 periodicals. This wagon as a traveling branch of the Public library is of great service in enlarging publicity activities, "running about the streets forty-eight hours a week."

Miss Mary E. Downey has resigned as director of the North Dakota State library commission, Bismarck, to become librarian of Denison university, Granville, Ohio. Denison university has reached a period where it wishes to develop the work of the library on a large scale. This will mean reorganization and the erection of a new building which, it is estimated, will cost \$300,000 or \$400,000. Miss Downey is a graduate of Denison university and expresses great pleasure in the hope of service to her Alma Mater.

The following changes have occurred recently in the staff of the Public library, Youngstown, Ohio.

Gentiliska Winterrowd, for several years reference librarian, Public library, Des Moines, has been appointed reference librarian at the Public library, Youngstown, Ohio. Grover C. Maclin, Pratt '23, who has been an assistant in the Technical department of the New York public library during the summer, has been appointed industrial librarian. Anna M. Tarr, Albany '11, who has been reference librarian since June, 1921, is now director of circula-



tion. Caroline Lauman, former director of circulation, has resigned.

According to the annual report, the Public library, Eveleth, Minn., has grown from a circulation of 45,071 in 1915 to 81,381 in 1922, an increase of 45 per cent since its establishment. The increase in juvenile circulation was 44 per cent and adult, 47 per cent. The library now enrolls 500 non-resident borrowers and it is hoped that a plan will finally be worked out by which the libraries on The Range will adequately take care of rural patronage. Work with teachers, students and night school pupils has progressed most satisfactorily.

Attendance at various meetings, story hours and victrola concerts totaled 8307. Population served, 8000; number of books on the shelves, 12,148; number of card holders, 4191; circulation, 81,381; readers, 90,886; number of pictures circulated, 3825; number of foreign books loaned, 1643. Receipts for the year, \$59,404; expenditures, \$16,823.

#### South

Hazel Hutchins, Simmons '20, has been appointed librarian of the State Teachers college, Kirksville, Missouri.

Maude Montgomery (Pratt) has been appointed assistant in charge of the Engineering department library, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Laura Lutrell (Wisconsin) has been made assistant cataloger.

Vivian G. Little, Wisconsin '16, was married on July 21 to William Wade Norrid. Mrs Norrid continues as librarian of the North East branch library of the Kansas City public library.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, has received a valuable gift of 6000 volumes from the library of the late head of the English department, Dr J. Douglas Bruce. This gift was supplemented by the establishment of a fund which will yield about \$300 annually, this income to be used to keep the collection as complete as possible. The library of Dr Bruce is a well selected one, particularly strong in Elizabethan and Arthurian literature and other romance material.

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**Warren G. Harding.**

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The St. Elmo branch of the Public library, Chattanooga, Tenn., was opened, September 27, with appropriate ceremonies. This branch is the ninth county branch the Public library has established. The library opens with a collection of 1,000 v.

This branch is the outgrowth of a community demand and interest which translated itself into \$524 for the purchase of books and a promise of further financial support if it is needed.

An editorial in the Chattanooga Times is noteworthy:

Congratulations are due St. Elmo because of the opening of a new branch library. The value of good libraries to a community can hardly be overestimated in this day and age when the man in every walk of life is busy finding out as much as possible "about his job." Public libraries have been ridiculed by "old fogies" in the past as an easy way to spend time, but now they are being recognized as an essential to a progressive community.

#### West

Lilian Sabin, Pratt '18, has been appointed librarian of the Uinta County library, Evanston, Wyoming.

Ruth Annette Sorenson, Wisconsin '17, was married on September 1 to Victor Solberg. Their home will be at 808 Illinois Street, Lawrence, Kansas.

Earl H. Davis, Wisconsin '14, has received the appointment of assistant librarian of the Natrona County library, Casper, Wyoming.

Inez E. Benedict, Pratt '18, librarian of the Public library at McMinnville, Oregon, has been made librarian of the Sheridan County library at Plentywood, Montana.

Mary Ellis Rossell, N. Y. P. L., '12-13, '14-15, has resigned her position as children's librarian of the Public library at Roanoke, Va. to become librarian of the Public library at Pocatello, Idaho.

Mary S. Buffum, for two years assistant librarian, State Teachers' College library, Cedar Falls, Iowa, has recently been appointed librarian of the State Teachers' college, Valley City, N. D.

#### Pacific Coast

Joyce Backus, Simmons '20, has been appointed librarian of the State Teachers college at San Jose, California.

Natalie T. Huhn, Wisconsin '21, went to the State college of Washington, Pullman, as reference librarian, on September 1.

Mrs Anne C. Haxby, Wisconsin '21, formerly librarian of the Hood River county library, Oregon, has accepted the position of librarian, Public library, Baker, Oregon.

Harriet E. Leitch, New York state, '10, has returned to the Seattle public library as head of the deposit station division after spending a year in the reference department of the Carnegie library, Pittsburgh.

Miss Julia Steffa, formerly librarian of the Madera county library, who has been spending several months abroad, has been appointed librarian of the library system for Kings County, Cal. Miss Steffa began her work, October 1.

Charles W. Smith, associate librarian of the University of Washington library, returned, October 1, from a four months' book buying trip in Europe. Mr Smith acted as agent for the University library and visited the principal book dealers in England, Scotland, The Netherlands, Germany, Italy, and France.

The following have been added to the staff of the Seattle public library: Georgiana Mineau, Wisconsin '15; Miriam Luke, Carnegie '22; Helen Hayes, Carnegie '23; Elizabeth U. Manley, Carnegie '19; Ruth C. Barlow, formerly of the Chicago public library, Irma Schoepflin, of the Buffalo public library and Mrs Ruth Delaney, from the Los Angeles public library.

Miss Cornelia Marvin, state librarian of Oregon, left the library, September 29, expecting to be away eight months, four months vacation and four months leave of absence. Miss Mirpah G. Blair, who has been in the library for many years, will be in charge during Miss Marvin's absence and all preparation has been made for the library to function most advantageously during the State librarian's absence. Miss Marvin will travel and study in her allotted time.

Friends and co-workers of the late Mary Frances Isom who organized the Public library of Portland, Oregon, and

(Salt Lake Telegram, May 27th, 1923)

## Snappy Pictures Of Old Paris

Do you expect to visit Paris? Are you interested in odd facts about that fascinating city? If Paris has any attractions for you at all, why don't forget to read "Vistas", by Walter Campbell Stevens.

"Vistas" tells of the France you do not find in guide books. There are many odd nooks and corners which you perhaps would never find in Paris if you went on a tour of exploration without reading this little book.

It is written in a highly entertaining style, is illustrated and attractively bound in blue and gold. Some of the chapter headings follow: "Breaking into Paris," "Clichy," "Island Glories," "Louis XIV and the Modern Dance," "Golden Yesterdays," "Les Petits Chiens," "Saint Michel and Its Mummies," "At the Coq Hardi." (Menteth Book Co., 456 West 22nd St., New York. \$2.00. Richly Illustrated.)

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was for 19 years its librarian, have procured a portrait bas-relief which has been placed in a niche on the second floor of the library building of that city. The bas-relief portrait is the work of Mrs Elsie Ward Hering of New York who had worked under St. Gaudens. The relief shows a seated figure and bears the inscription:

Within walls consecrated  
To the service of mankind  
The guiding principle of her life  
As librarian from 1901 to 1920  
The noble spirit of  
Mary Frances Isom  
Is commemorated in this tablet

The Public library, Stockton, Cal., had an exhibit at the San Joaquin County fair recently. One of the features of the exhibit was a closed-in miniature reading scene placed upon a pedestal of books, with the legend beneath, "A happy family finds joy—in books. The library lends them free."

The Stockton *Independent* in commenting on the exhibit gives the following:

The Stockton library has a display behind three "peepholes"—one labeled "for women," one "for men," and one "for children." A count was kept yesterday for exactly five minutes. Three children used their own peephole. They couldn't reach the others. Seven women used their peephole. Four men and their wives looked jointly, each sex in its proper place. Eleven men, entirely unattached, looked—after a sheepish glance around—in the peephole labeled "for women." The entertaining part of it is that all three views are of the same thing.

The report of the Contra Costa County free library, Martinez, Cal., contains a number of interesting items concerning the work of the library. Branch libraries report progress in their work and improvement in quarters and equipment. A letter from the State superintendent of schools concerning the value of the county library to the schools of the state is very encouraging, supported as it is by a number of letters of appreciation from teachers. Especially satisfactory work has been done with classes in citizenship.

There are 42 branches with regular custodians and 47 schools and 3 union high-schools are receiving library service. Only 4 schools in the county have not joined the movement. The library has 93 points of distribution.

Books and periodicals circulated,

153,076; number of accessions for branches, 37,285; school collections, 57,716; total, 95,001. Receipts for the year, \$49,444; expenditures, \$43,060.

#### Canada

Catharine S. Tracey, who for the past four years has been doing translation work for the Military intelligence division, War department, Washington, has resigned to become chief cataloger in the library of Queen university, Kingston, Canada.

#### Foreign

Ismael Mallari, Wisconsin '23, spent two months during the summer as assistant in the Seward Park branch, New York library, before sailing for the Philippines.

**For Sale**—*Harper's Monthly Magazine*; v. 42-60; bound; in good condition. Address F. L. Searing, Mankato, Minn.

**Wanted**—Number of indexes for PUBLIC LIBRARIES, v. 24, (1919). Please return to the office of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

**Vacancy**—Position of first assistant at Plumb memorial library, Shelton, Conn., will be vacant November 1. Applicants please state training and experience. Jessamine Ward, librarian.

**Wanted**—Young lady, library school graduate with four years experience in a college library, desires position in college or public library; West or Middle west preferred. Address E., 214 W. Monroe St., Chicago.

**Wanted**—Librarian for well established free library in small New York State town having rapidly increasing intelligent suburban population and an industrial group; adjacent to city with large university. Salary moderate; opportunity large. E. B. Beard, Fayetteville, N. Y.

**Wanted**—Librarian with 10 years experience in library work and five years as head of a reference department wishes position as librarian of a small college or normal school library or as head of a reference department. College degree and one graduate degree besides library school degree. Address E., 214 W. Monroe St., Chicago.